



BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 29th Year
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AN ENJOYABLE GET-AWAY

Take an Amateur Radio Cruise

Racine Megacycle Club members and other hams do the Caribbean

By Rob Madson, KF9ZT



RMC's host ship: *Rhapsody of The Seas* in port of Aruba

It began in the summer of 1996. I was sitting around the restaurant table, having coffee, with a small group of hams after the regular club meeting. We were discussing travel and telling each other about some of the trips that each of us had made in the past. Eventually, the discussion turned to cruise vacations. Several of us that had been on cruises spoke of the fun and enjoyment of traveling by ship. As we told stories about the great food and service, the exotic ports of call, the food, the shipboard atmosphere, the food, the sight-

seeing, the shopping and of course the food, we began to hear the call of the sea again (not to mention that my stomach was growling).

As it happens, one of the hams (Cheryl, WS9P) in our discussion was a travel agent. Even though we were not really that serious about going, Cheryl volunteered to look into a group rate for some upcoming Caribbean cruises. Of course it would have to be on one of the new mega-ships with

Please turn to page 7

It's on its way!

THE 1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

Sunday, March 15, 1998

Noon until 7 p.m. CST

(1800Z March 15 - 0100Z March 16)

COMPLETE RULES IN FEBRUARY ISSUE

Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Happy New Year!

And a Happy 150th birthday to the great State of Wisconsin

Under Ordinance of 1787, Wisconsin was made part of the Northwest Territory. The governing units for the Wisconsin area prior to statehood were: 1787-1800 - Northwest Territory; 1800-1809 - Indiana Territory; 1809 - 1818 - Illinois Territory; 1836 - 1848 - Wisconsin Territory. In 1846, Congress passed enabling act for admission of Wisconsin as state. First Constitutional Convention met in Madison. 1847 - Census population 210,546. First Constitution rejected by people. Second Constitutional Convention. 1848 - Second Constitution adopted. President James K. Polk signed bill on May 29 making Wisconsin a state. The first governor of the State of Wisconsin, Nelson Dewey, was inaugurated June 7, 1848.

- Information from 1997-1998 Wisconsin Blue Book

FAR announces scholarship availabilities for 1998-1999

Three Wisconsin clubs now taking part

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., will be administering 67 scholarships for the coming academic year, ranging from \$500 to \$2500 each. Unless otherwise indicated, all licensed amateurs meeting the specific requirements may



compete for the awards if they are now enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited university, college or technical school to pursue a full-time course of studies. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all of the awards for which they feel eligible (not only for

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 1998. 26th annual Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1998. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs annual Midwinter Hamfest and Electronic Flea Market at the Odeum Exposition Center in Villa Park, Illinois from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: WCARA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189 or web page: www.w9cuu.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1998. Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction. Contact: Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749-9020. (715) 665-2374.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1998. SEWFARS Swapfest, Waukesha County expo Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS Inc., PO Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018, (414) 358-1003.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1998. The Milwaukee School of Engineering ARC swapfest will be held at the MSOE Student Life and Campus Center Auditorium, 1025 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: MSOE ARC, MSOE CC-346, 1025 N Broadway, Milwaukee, WI. Web Page: www.msoc.edu/st_orgs/w9hxx e-mail: serrew@msoc.edu

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1998. Tri County Hamfest 1998, Jefferson WI. Contact TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (920) 563-6381.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 3 & 4, 1998.

Amateur Electronic Supply Superfest. Contact: Ray Grenier, K9KHW, (414) 358-4088, rayk9khw@aol.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1998. Madison Swapfest. NEW LOCATION - John Q Hammons Trade Center. Lower Prices, Free parking. Contact: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (608) 245-8890.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998. Twentieth Annual Cedarburg Swapfest. Held at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I (located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, west of Grafton. Contact: Ozaukee Radio Club, W58 N985 Essex Drove. Cedarburg. WI 53012-1439. (414) 377-2784 or (414) 284-3271.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998, 21st annual CWRA Swapfest, U.S. Army Reserve Center, Junction City, WI. Contact: John Feltz, WA9JN, 973 E First St., Junction City, WI 54443-9614. (715) 457-2506. e-mail jfw9jn@tznnet.com

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1998. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, South Milwaukee, WI. (414) 762-3235.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998. The Marshfield Area Radio Club will be holding their 8th annual picnic in the park, Hamnic at Wildwood Park. Gather around noon. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Chhristopher Stron, KB9NMH or Guy Boucher guyboucher@tznnet.com

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebnetter. Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ads should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.



CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the October 1997 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following changes have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Monthly - first Tue. - 7:30 p.m. at Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

ARES Net: 146.04/146.64 Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Sat.s on 7277 KHz at 10:30 a.m.

The Test Point



**Amateur Radio Examination Locations
and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area**

January 03, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 03, 1998	St. Paul, MN
January 08, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
January 10, 1998	Blaine, MN
January 10, 1998	Eau Claire, WI
January 10, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
January 17, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
January 17, 1998	Loves Park, IL
January 17, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
January 17, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
January 17, 1998	Redgranite, WI
January 19, 1998	Madison, WI
January 20, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
January 24, 1998	Appleton, WI
January 24, 1998	Bloomington, MN
January 31, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 31, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
February 07, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 07, 1998	Racine, WI
February 07, 1998	St. Paul, MN
February 12, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
February 14, 1998	Blaine, MN
February 14, 1998	Madison, WI
February 14, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
February 17, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
February 21, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
February 21, 1998	Loves Park, IL
February 21, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 28, 1998	Bloomington, MN
February 28, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 28, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
March 07, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 07, 1998	Racine, WI
March 07, 1998	St. Paul, MN
March 12, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
March 14, 1998	Blaine, MN
March 14, 1998	Madison, WI
March 14, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
March 17, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
March 18, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
March 21, 1998	Appleton, WI
March 21, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
March 21, 1998	Loves Park, IL
March 21, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 21, 1998	Redgranite, WI
March 28, 1998	Bloomington, MN

Badger State Smoke Signals

**Amateur Radio
Education and Information**

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebnetter@palacenet.net

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TREASURER:

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

March 28, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 March 28, 1998 Tomahawk, WI
 March 28, 1998 Menomonie, WI
 May 09, 1998 Manitowoc, WI
 May 16, 1997 Redgranite, WI
 May 16, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 July 15, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 August 15, 1998 Redgranite, WI
 September 12, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 September 19, 1998 Appleton, WI
 October 17, 1998 Redgranite, WI
 November 01, 1998 Kaukauna, WI
 November 07, 1998 Menomonie, WI
 November 18, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 December 19, 1998 Redgranite, WI
 January 23, 1999 Appleton, WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
 (except January, July & August)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
 Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
 Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 (except December)
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
 (January thru October only)
 Quarterly Marshfield, WI
 (Second Saturday every third month.)
 Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
 (Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)
 (plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.25 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

SECOND SATURDAY - OAK CREEK, WI
 LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note:

For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.25 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Badger Examiners group now testing at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 6th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are not 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Serman Printing ship, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided, fee is \$6.25, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.25, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, NZ9B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST) KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

STEVENS POINT, WI (ARRL/VE)

Held in room 107, of the UWSP Science Building, on the corner of Fourth and Reserve Streets in Stevens Point. Contact Joe Larson, N9JW evenings at (715) 344-1182.

PEWAUKEE, WI

Kettle Moraine Exam Team. Held at the Pewaukee WCTC Campus Science Building, Room S101. 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Contact Al Johnson, AA7CS. (414) 568-0836. 103357.3222@COMPUSERV.COM

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session

will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.25. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

EAU CLAIRE

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For further information contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc Kinley Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

REDGRANITE, WI (W5YI/VEC)

The Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (RAW) will be holding test sessions at the Civic Center in Redgranite, 202 Pine River Road, one block from Highway 21. Turn north by Mosier's Sporting GoodsR store. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Bring two forms of identification, \$6.25 per test, two copies of all original documents, CSCE's, Licenses, etc. along with original documents. For further information, contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Connor, K9II (920) 231-7093.

MENOMONIE, WI

The Menomonie, WI VE team will conduct its 1998 exams on Saturday, March 28, 1998 and Saturday November 7, 1998. At UW-Stout Communication Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonie, WI. Walk-ins only, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Contact: Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 232-1397 (W) or (715) 235-3998 (H).

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

Wisconsin Dells City Hall, City Council Chambers. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: K9WD, (608) 254-2895.

HUDSON, WI

Testing is held at the St. Croix County emergency government Center on Carmichael road in Hudson, WI. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and testing begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Greg Miller, KB9JHL, 503 4th St., Hudson, WI 54016. (715) 386-9857.

MARSHFIELD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Held at St. Joseph Hospital, 611 St. Joseph Ave., in the 1 West classroom located adjacent to the Westwood Cafeteria on the main floor of the hospital. Use the main entrance or any other entrance and follow the signs to the cafeteria. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with testing starting at 9:00 a.m. Talk in on the 147.18 Marshfield repeater. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Walter Friant, WB0KIN, 2310 Wallonie Drive, Marshfield, WI 54449 (715) 387-3870.

SHEBOYGAN, WI

Wednesday dates: Registration 1830 hrs, testing 1900 hrs.

Saturday dates: Registration 0830 hrs, testing 0900 hrs.

Testing site is: Red Cross/Boy Scout Office Building (lower level), 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI.

Test site has limited handicap accessibility. Walk-ins are OK but preregistration would be appreciated. Test fee is \$6.25. Make checks payable to SCARC VE Testing. All class tests administered. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>

ADAMS\FRIENDSHIP WI (ARRL/VEC)

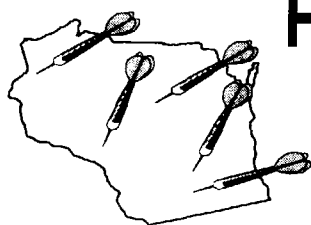
The Adams County Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring an Amateur Radio Exam Session on Saturday, December 13th, 1997 beginning at 2:00 PM. The exam session location will be the Friendship Village Hall on west Lake Street in Friendship, WI. Friendship Village Hall / Fire Department is located approximately 1/2 mile west of State Highway 13 on County Trunk Highway J (aka west Lake Street).

Walk-ins will be accepted and are invited. Standard exam fees and procedures will be followed. Morse Code exams are in multiple-choice format. If a candidate is unsuccessful and would like to retake an element (Morse or Written) they will be accommodated on a time available basis upon payment of an additional exam fee.

As a reminder the exam fee for 1997 is \$6.25. A fee is charged to all candidates except those only taking element 1A (5 WPM Morse) or element 2 (Novice Written). Exam fees are charged to candidates taking elements 1A and 2 resulting in an UPGRADE of license class.

Also note that effective January 1, 1998 all previous versions of FCC form 610 (Application for Amateur Station License) will be void.

(continued on page 15)



HERE and THERE

Sputnik PS2 keeps going and going

More than five weeks after its launch by hand from the Mir space station, the mini-Sputnik PS2 satellite beacon transmitter continues to beep away (as of December 12, 1997) -- the orbiting equivalent of the Energizer Bunny. Powered by just over three pounds of lithium batteries, the spacecraft's transmitter, on 145.82 MHz has been heard around the world and already has functioned longer than the original Sputnik 1 satellite did 40 years ago.

The Sputnik 40 Years project that led to the construction and launch of the satellite has been funded by private donations, and the program's sponsors say they "still have some small debts to pay." The organizers are seeking six additional sponsors at \$6000 each. The satellite itself was built by students in Russia, while another group of students on France's Reunion Island built the transmitter.

A film and a book are in preparation, and Sputnik 40 Years expects to make presentations about the project at many national and international meetings, including the annual dinner of Aero-Club de France. Guy Pignolet, secretary of the Aero-Club de France and an engineer with the French Space Agency said the project would very much like to have US companies or even individuals "share the adventure." For more information, contact Pignolet at 2 place Maurice Quentin, 75039 Paris Cedex 01, France; e-mail pignolet@francenet.fr.

Reception reports go to The Radio Club of Jules

489 Saint Denis Cedex, Reunion Island. Requests will be processed after the satellite has expired. For more information, see: <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/spoutnik.html>.

The ARRL Letter, 12/12/97

Gate 4 attracts hundreds

The FCC does not expect to begin processing Gate 4 applications until after the first of the year. A spokesperson at the FCC's Gettysburg office said the current plan is to run the first-day applications on or about January 7, 1997, but emphasized that this is not a firm date.

The FCC has processed earlier vanity receipts through mid-November, including all work in process (WIPs) applications. In November, the FCC reports it got 517 electronic applications and 149 paper applications.

The FCC reports it got more than 800 electronic applications on December 2, the first day of Gate 4. Another 120 electronic applications showed up on December 3. A count of paper applications is not yet available.

The ARRL Letter, 12/12/97

The FCC clarifies club vanity call sign requests

All club station trustees requesting the call sign of a deceased former member as a club station vanity call sign (and holding a letter of consent of a close relative of the former holder), should check Box 7D on FCC Form 610V and fill in the call sign of the deceased former holder plus the relationship of the close relative to the former holder. Do this whether applying under Gate 1A or Gate 4. Applicants should ignore the Box 7D reference to clubs that held a club station license granted before March 24, 1995. This date is no longer relevant.

hotel accommodations

Contact the Fairfield Inn, 608-831-1400, to reserve rooms for the MARA Swapfest. The group rate of \$49 per room is valid on Saturday night, April 4, 1998. Reserve early to beat the space crunch!

Jeremy Charles, N9VHT

Do not check Box 7F and do not put the requested in memoriam call sign in the preference list on the back of the Form 610V.

--thanks to FCC via Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

The ARRL Letter, 12/3/97

Space Place at UW-Madison seeks donations

The UW Space Place Amateur Radio Center, SPARC, is in need of donations. These can come in the form of equipment, financial contribution, or services in kind such as Stas', KC2AK, donating his time and expertise in creating our upcoming SPARC web page.

Space Place is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

SPARC has received support from the Norman Bassett Foundation, Evjue Foundation, and ARRL Foundation. We plan on pursuing local private companies for donations, also.

More information is available on Space Place and SPARC, upon request.

SPARC now has a 40 foot Rohn tower, Heath 1 KW

International Space Station crews named

NASA recently named the first team members to live and work aboard the International Space Station, and four crew members already hold ham tickets. In addition, several of the crew members are studying for their licenses.

The first crew will consist of American astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander. Shepherd is currently studying for his ticket. He'll be accompanied by Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. The crew is training for an early 1999 launch and a planned five-month mission on the ISS.

The second crew, headed by Russian cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, R3MIR, will include US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and James S. Voss, who's indicated an interest in getting his ham ticket.

No licensed hams are among the third crew, which will be headed by astronaut Kenneth Bowersox and will include Russian crewmates Vladimir Dezhnevov and Mikhail Turin. Bowersox also has said he'd like to get his ham license.

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko will head the fourth crew. US astronauts Carl Walz, KC5TIE, and Daniel Bursch will accompany him.

AMSAT-NA's VP of Manned Space, Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, reports that the international team developing the ISS ham radio station is now working hard to incorporate a transportable ham station for ISS, and deliver this equipment to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for flight certification in June, 1998. Initially, ISS crews will inhabit the service module, which will include a ham radio antenna, with ham gear scheduled to be delivered aboard the STS-96 shuttle flight. Microsat/repeater payloads are tentatively scheduled to arrive in early 2002, expanding ham radio capability aboard the station.

Stay tuned to ANS for more information on ham radio's planned presence on ISS as it develops.

[ANS thanks the ARRL, NASA and Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, for this information]

AMSAT News Service, 12/07/97

AMATEUR AUCTION!

February 24, 1998 • 7 P.M.

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The Amateur Radio SkyWarn Mission Continues

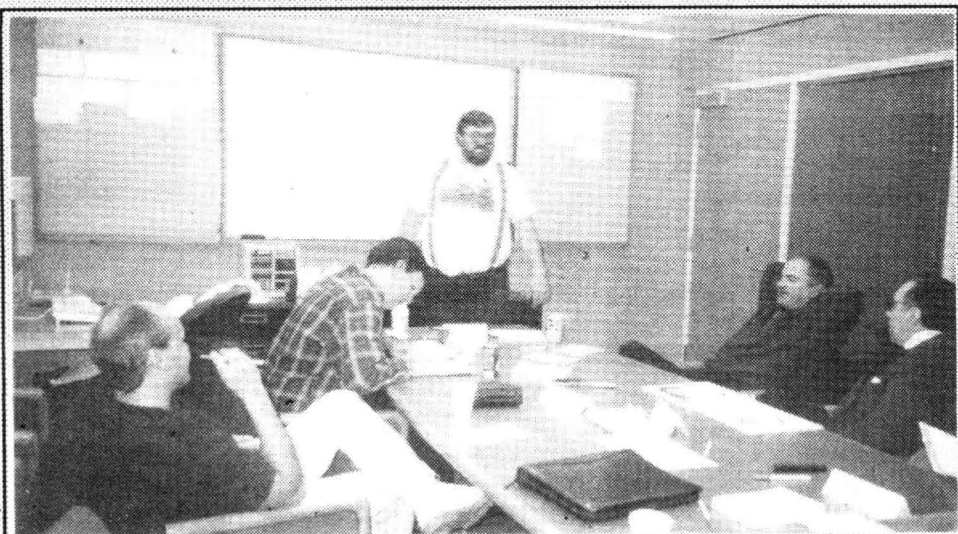
By John Leekley, WB9SMM
Section Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin Section ARRL

Several people have asked me about the status of the relationship between the Amateur Radio community and the National Weather Service Office at Sullivan. I am happy to report that things are going very well. As you may know, major changes (both structural and technical) have occurred and are occurring in the National Weather Service. The advent of the NEXRAD radar, the expansion of the Sullivan and WS office warning area, together with a significant expansion of the type of reports they are asking for (they now even want rainfall amounts) have required a complete rethinking of the systems and procedures by which the Amateur Radio community supplies severe weather reports to the weather service.

A meeting was held on November 15 at the Kountry Kupboard near Oconomowoc to bring together all of the major players in the severe weather reporting community. ARES ECs, wide-area repeater clubs, and SkyWarn groups were all invited to send representatives. From that meeting, a working group was formed and met for the first time at the NWS in Sullivan on December 5. The working group made substantial progress at its first meeting and anticipates being able to report back to the plenary session after one or two more meetings.

Since the working group is, at this stage, brainstorming for the purpose of producing recommendations (in other words, we are a long way from final decisions), I don't feel it is appropriate to discuss specific ideas. However, I can say that the program that emerges will be solidly based on the foundation built over the years while incorporating some exciting innovations which will be appreciated by all.

Stay tuned!



Shown here attending and working at a SkyWarn meeting are Bert, N9VBI; Jeremy, N9VHT; Tom, N9SZF (facilitator); Len, N9QIP; and Skip, WD9HAS. Not shown at this December 5 meeting are Tom, KA9EWJ; Greg, WL7LI; and Dean, KB9OFI.

Photo Courtesy John Leekley/WB9SMM

HF amplifier, and a 2 element HF triband antenna. We could use HF and VHF equipment that is in good shape. Interested parties should contact, Don Michalski, W9-IXG, SPARC president. Work phone is (608) 263-4685. Home: 274-3253. Or e-mail to N9UW@sal.wisc.edu. Visit our upcoming Space Place Web site www.sal.wisc.edu/spaceplace

Thanks!

Donald E. Michalski (W9IXG), Associate Director
Space Astronomy Laboratory,
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Here's Ed!



ARRL Central Division Ed Metzger, W9PRN, doesn't often get to many events in Wisconsin, as it is a very long way from his QTH in southern Illinois. So, we thought we'd let you see what he looks like! And, hopefully, we did, as this is also a test photo and halftone from a different flatbed scanner. If it looks good, great! If not, we apologize.

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Busted pirate broadcaster is ham

One of the three unlicensed broadcasters busted by the government three week ago is a ham. L. Douglas Brewer, better known as Doug Brewer to the Tampa, Florida ham community holds the call sign KC4HAZ. Brewer, a General licensee of Temple Terrace, Florida, was detained when armed agents moved in to close down the pirates and confiscate equipment.

As previously reported, Brewer operated as "The Party Pirate" on 102.1 MHz from his suburban Tampa home. He told reporters that he was awakened November 19 at 6:30 a.m. by armed U.S. marshals who handcuffed him.

According to news reports, federal agents seized equipment from his home studio and from a remote broadcasting van that carried a "102.1 FM Pirate Radio" logo. They also dismantled his 150 foot tower and

trucked it all away as Brewer and other station volunteers looked on.

(Via ARRL, others)

West Philadelphia pirate radio

A West Philadelphia low power broadcaster has returned to the air in defiance of the Federal Communications Commission. The 20 watt alternative station resumed broadcasting after less than a week off the air. Like Free Radio Berkeley in California, the operators of the Philadelphia station claim that the FCC's expensive licensing process is an unconstitutional violation of free speech rights.

(Via published news reports)

Newsline, 12/12/97

K9UTQ plus three eagles four

Gene Santoski, K9UTQ, Wisconsin Rapids, wrote a story about the 1997 National Jamboree which we printed last month. He was in good company, indeed. He is shown here with Joel, N9XMO, Kevin, N9ZQB, and Josh, KB9JJG, all Eagle Scouts, and all from Gene's troop.



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JANUARY 1998

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(414) 284-9346
WB9RQR @ N9PBY EN63BJ WLUSA.NA
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU

No. 50: Critical File Backups for Win95, Part 2

Last month we saw how to back up the critical Win95 Registry using a simple batch file (MYREGBAK.BAT) from the DOS command line. Now let's look at the next backup of important system files. I won't go into what these various files do; perhaps that is a subject for future articles. However, several of these files are ASCII files, capable of being read by a human being using any text editor, and you might well find it instructive to study them a bit to learn something about how Win95 is controlled. This batch file, MYBASBAK.BAT, backs up files found in your root directory. Don't bother looking for them with a DIR command, though. All but two are completely hidden from your prying eyes by the gurus at Microsoft! However, the copies that this batch file makes will be available for your perusal.

```
echo off
rem MYBASBAK.BAT (type in the date you created the batch file here)
echo Copying BOOTLOG.PRV and BOOTLOG.TXT
attrib -h bootlog.*
copy bootlog.* e:\backups\basbak
attrib +h bootlog.*
pause
echo Copying DETLOG.TXT
attrib -s -h detlog.txt
copy detlog.txt e:\backups\basbak
attrib +s +h detlog.txt
pause
echo Copying MSDOS.---
attrib -h msdos.---
copy msdos.--- e:\backups\basbak
attrib +h msdos.---
pause
echo Copying MSDOS.SYS
attrib -s -r -h msdos.sys
copy msdos.sys e:\backups\basbak
attrib +s +r +h msdos.sys
pause
echo Copying NETLOG.TXT
attrib -h netlog.txt
copy netlog.txt e:\backups\basbak
attrib +h netlog.txt
pause
echo Copying SETUPLOG.TXT
attrib -h setuplog.txt
copy setuplog.txt e:\backups\basbak
attrib +h setuplog.txt
pause
echo Copying SUHDLOG.DAT
attrib -r -h suhdlog.dat
copy suhdlog.dat e:\backups\basbak
attrib +r +h suhdlog.dat
pause
echo Copying SYSTEM.1ST
attrib -s -r -h system.1st
copy system.1st e:\backups\basbak
attrib +s +r +h system.1st
pause
echo Copying CONFIG.SYS AUTOEXEC.BAT and this batch file
copy config.sys e:\backups\basbak
copy autoexec.bat e:\backups\basbak
copy mybasbak.bat e:\backups\basbak
echo All done!
```

You can see that this batch file repeats a similar procedure with each file or set of files it handles. The echo command prints a notice to your screen telling you what it is doing. Next, the attrib command is used to remove the r (read only), s (system file) or

h (hidden file) status, or some combination of these attributes, from the file or files to be worked on. Then the file(s) are copied to the appropriate backup subdirectory. Finally, the attrib command is used to restore the attributes of the original files, so that everything is just as it was before starting. The pause command is used in several places to freeze the screen (allowing a moment for you to read what is going on), and giving you the opportunity to continue with processing by showing you the "Press any key to continue..." prompt.

When you run this batch file, do not panic if you get an on-screen message stating "File not found." Depending on the setup of your particular system, one or more of the files you are trying to back up may not be present, giving you this error message. However, the message is informative only and describes a harmless situation; the rest of the batch file should execute as planned.

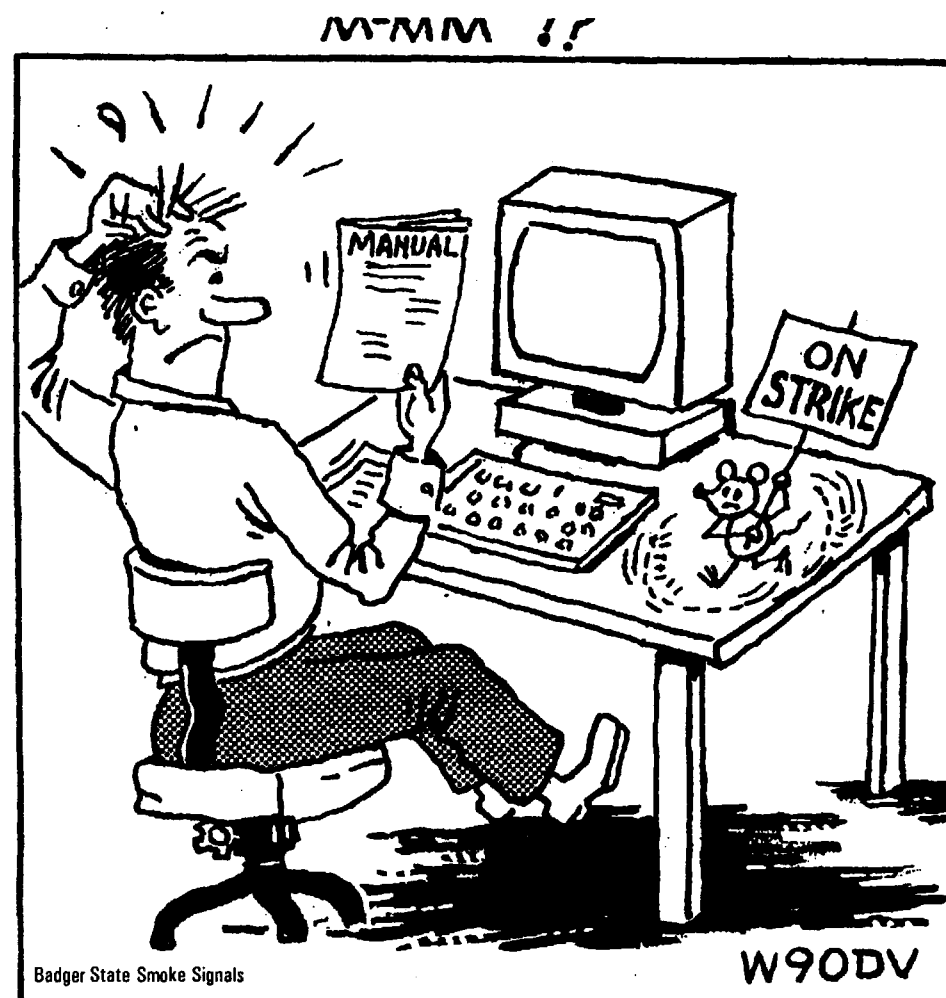
As mentioned last month, be sure to change the path statement in the batch file from: e:\backups\basbak to whatever fits your system. Following last month's example, your path statement might be: c:\safety\basebak or some other arrangement to your liking. Don't forget to create the subdirectory *before* running this batch file. If you have a c:\safety directory already, then go to it in DOS and give the command: md basebak to make the basebak subdirectory.

All of the files handled by this batch file are Win95 files, except for the last two. CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT are DOS files, which may or may not be present depending upon your particular setup. In mine, they control the boot process and are critical, just as they are in a pure DOS or Windows 3.1 machine. Therefore, I have included them in this scheme, called MYBASBAT because it is the most basic backup of important files.

Finally, all of the files except SUHDLOG.DAT and SYSTEM.1ST are in ASCII format, and therefore readable with any text editor. I encourage you to look through them. Again, you can learn more about how processes are controlled by doing so. Don't modify or save them with your editor, though. When finished reading, just exit your editor to prevent any modification of the files. That way, these copies will be pristine and ready to replace any real system files that become damaged. If you think you may have modified one or more of the files accidentally, just run MYBASBAK.BAT again and fresh copies will be created.

That's it for this month. Next time, we will look at the last batch file, which copies some essential files found in the actual windows subdirectory. Happy computing!

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Scholarships announced

Continued from front page

the awards offered by the Wisconsin clubs).

The latest Wisconsin club to join the scholarship donors is the Ozaukee County Amateur Radio Club. They join the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club and the South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club. Here are the awards being offered by the Wisconsin clubs.

West Allis Radio Amateur Radio Club: The three (3) WARAC Memorial Scholarships, which pay \$1000 each, are sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc., of Milwaukee. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license, be residents of the state of Wisconsin, and plan to attend a school in Wisconsin, pursuing at least an Associate degree. Those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible.

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club: The four (4) South Milwaukee Amateur Scholarships pay \$500 each. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license and intend to seek an Associate or baccalaureate degree from a college or university in the U.S. Preference will be given to applicants studying Electrical Engineering or related technology. They may reside in Wisconsin,

Illinois, or Indiana, with preference given to Wisconsin residents.

Ozaukee Amateur Radio Club: The Ozaukee Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1000. It is available to Wisconsin residents holding any class of Amateur Radio license and pursuing at least a bachelor's degree in any course of study.

FAR administers many other scholarships, as indicated in the beginning of this article, and many are available to all.

For complete information on all scholarships and application materials, write The Foundation for Amateur Radio, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park MD 20740. □

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Correspondence.....

Two Meters in the WQP: SPREAD 'EM!

I've been a participant in the Wisconsin QSO Party for the past several years. It is a great contest, as everybody will agree, I'm sure. I would like to make a suggestion that should make it more enjoyable for all who participate. It will also enhance scores!!

I'm sure that everybody will agree that availability of the national simplex frequency is nice. It does, however, make for a real "zoo". This defeats the who's inciple of ham radio. Sounds kinda like CB.. people continually keying up over each other!!!

My suggestion (maybe some areas do this already!), is to spread out, especially in major metropolitan areas! We have a lot of room on 2 meter simplex. Why not use it?!! I'm not sure what are commonly used frequencies in other areas, but around Green Bay, 146.48 is popular. What about 146.46 or 146.55 or 146.58 and etc.? If everyone takes a turn using 146.52 along with another frequency or two, more contacts can be made by all!!!! After all, isn't that the objective????? Feel free to pass along the other frequencies that are being used in your area periodically.. i.e., "Please check 146.55 for other stations in ????? county".

Remember, you don't have to be a BIG GUN to participate. Even if contesting isn't your thing, stop by and pass out a few contacts. Your contacts will be appreciated by all. Don't forget to turn in your log and let your points count toward the cumulative club scores.

Keith Summers. KS0WT

Propagation Predictions

By Woody Minar, K9EF
Tabscott Lane, Chantilly, VA

In September 1997, the Solar Cycle Prediction Panel met to discuss the death of Solar Cycle 22 and the birth of Solar Cycle 23. Based on data at the time and their recent observations, "Solar Cycle 23 has begun and is expected to reach a maximum smoothed monthly sunspot number near 160 (between the values of 130 and 190) near March, 2000 (between June 1999 and January 2001)."

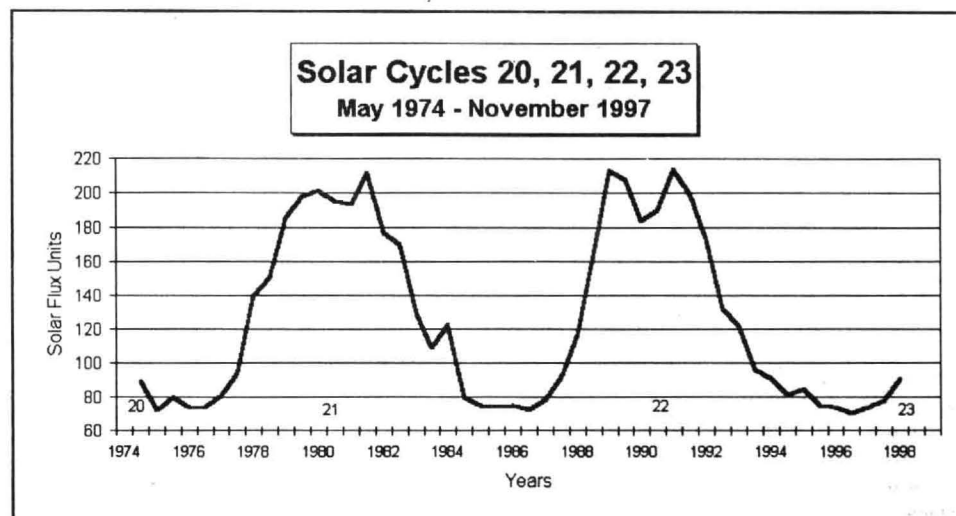
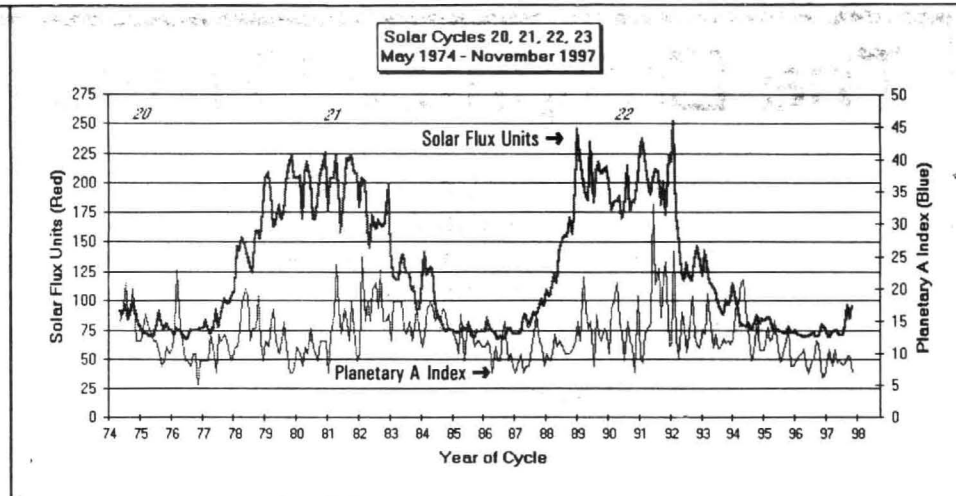
The Solar Cycle Panel also recommended that October, 1996, be used as the effective onset of Cycle 23. If you recall previous BSSS articles, I suggested October 24th and 25th were the transition days from Cycle 22 to Cycle 23. This appears to hold true.

Now that we're over a year into Cycle 23, what does the near future look like for us DXers and the general ham populace? The good news is that the average cycle has about a 3.5 year rise time from minimum to maximum. However, if you look at Chart 1 (which is the Chart 2 data smoothed over time), you'll see that excellent propagation generally starts in less than two years after the minimum which, in this case, is less than 10 months away. This means that by next fall, we'll be seeing (and hearing) the beginning the excellent propagation which translates into great DX once again.

Chart 2 is the daily plot of the 2800 Mhz Solar Flux and the Planetary Alpha (Ap) indices from May, 1974 to the present. During periods of poor propagation, of which we're coming out of, the Solar Flux is low and the Ap is high. You'll see that as Cycle 23 ages, the Ap index minimizes while the Solar Flux maximizes; these two elements are key to excellent propagation.

In future articles we'll discuss sunspot activity and cycle lengths going back to the 1600's. Any questions or comments, you can e-mail me at WISBRED@AOL.COM

73,
Woody
□



Won't you let me take you on a sea cruise?

Continued from front page

all the services, and at least seven nights long to reach many exotic Caribbean ports. After all, if you're going to dream, you might as well make it big!

Several months later, after most of the discussion was forgotten, Cheryl came to a Saturday ham breakfast with some cruise booklets. Wow! Mega-ships! Exotic ports! Everything we wanted! It didn't take much discussion at all to find out that there were at least five or six couples interested in going. At this point it seemed as though there were enough people to form our own cruise "group". Some of the ham couples even had friends that wanted to come along too. We gave Cheryl the "go ahead" to get us signed up.

Our original plan was to travel as a group with common interests and to do a limited amount of Amateur Radio activities as well. We would bring HF gear and UHF/VHF HTs as well. However, we wanted to be careful as not to monopolize everyone's time with radio activities and orphan those spouses and friends that were not hams. We would operate on HF two or three sessions of two hours on the trip. The HTs would be our intraship and port communications.

Unfortunately, things were not quite as simple as it seemed. First, the cruise line did not want to allow HF operations on the ship. It seems that they have had some problems with previous hams not adhering to their operational requests while operating HF on board ship. This was a problem that was definitely made worse by the fact that Norway issued some reciprocal licenses with full (including HF) privileges and some with only VHF/UHF privileges. We decided that we would not press the issue. Our reasoning was that even if Norway granted us HF privileges, we were still at the discretion of the captain and the owner (the cruise line) of the vessel. There is, of course, the ever-present responsibility of the amateur community to promote international good will. Hopefully we would set an example of cooperation (willingness to abide by their rules) that will encourage the cruise line to accommodate future ham activities more readily.

Licensing was a somewhat paperwork-intensive task. We needed a Norwegian license for operating on the ship at any time. Then each port of call would require a reciprocal license for their respective island and territorial waters. This added up to four

reciprocal licenses per person (Aruba, Curaçau, St. Maarten and Norway). Norway was the only country with a free license and very simple paperwork. All of the other countries had forms of various lengths, (not all in English) and more importantly, a fee. Total was about \$75 to \$80 per person, or about \$150+ per couple. All of us obtained the free Norwegian license and none of the others.

Finally it was departure day, Saturday, November 8th, 1997. We were packed, checked and ready to go, at the airport. HTs, chargers, batteries, antennae and mics were all safely in the carry-on luggage. Security was a snap, no questions asked. Once we arrived in San Juan and made it to the pier, security was somewhat tighter to get on board the ship. Moving at a relaxed pace, we were walking on board in less than an hour. Still, no questions asked.

Our first job (after finding our stateroom) was to see if our HTs would penetrate the ship's interior. Keep in mind that this vessel is 979 feet long, taller than the Statue of Liberty, and it weighs over 78,000 tons. The Rhapsody of the Seas is one very big ship. But it also seemed to be one very large bundle of wave-guides for 2 meters. We used 146.520 FM Simplex at about one or two watts. My first contact was with Arne (KA9ZPY). His stateroom was almost at the other end of the ship! It seems that this would work perfectly for the entire length of the ship's interior.

On the second day at sea, our Amateur Radio activities took a surprising turn. I received a call in my stateroom from the chief audio engineer. It seems that he had been having some problems with interference, and thought that we might be the source. On board this new modern ship I learned that somewhere near 100 wireless devices were used in theater applications. Wireless microphones, instrument microphones, lighting controls and stage controls were all operated by RF. During our conversation he told me that they use many frequencies (wide FM stereo) starting at 144 MHz and going up, as well as 438 MHz and up! Not only were these used for the theatrical stage shows, but for presentations, demonstrations and lectures throughout the ship all day long. He formally requested that we do not operate except for between midnight



RADIO ROOM TOUR: Left to Right, Rob Madson (KF9ZT), Joe Schroeder (W9JUV), Janet Schroeder (N9LGI), Dave Voss (WB9USI), Erik Larsen (Chief Radio Officer), Arne Moxness (KA9ZPY).

FCC SEQUENTIAL CALLSIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of December 1, 1997.

Dist	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0GQ	KI0KU	++	KC0CIG
1	AA1SX	KE1IV	N1ZXA	KB1CFW
2	AB2EP	KG2ND	++	KC2CSQ
3	AA3QN	KF3AP	++	KB3BXZ
4	AF4GW	KU4MR	++	KF4UWW
5	AC5OG	KM5NI	++	KD5CUB
6	AD6DX	KQ6TM	++	KF6OTL
7	AB7WV	KK7KU	++	KC7ZTP
8	AB8BP	KI8ER	++	KC8IWZ
9	AA9VD	KG9MA	++	KB9RTD
N. Mariana Is	NH0B	AH0AY	KH0GT	WH0ABI
Guam	++	AH2DF	KH2SR	WH2ANV
Hawaii	KH7V	AH6PE	KH7HH	WH6DEL
Am. Samoa	AH8P	AH8AH	KH8DL	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0H	AL7QW	KL0KX	WL7CUO
Virgin Islands	++	KP2CM	NP2JW	WP2AIJ
Puerto Rico	NP3Q	KP3BD	NP3SR	WP4NNM

++ All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

Doing the Caribbean

Continued from page 7

and about 8 a.m. This effectively ended our amateur operations.

Unfortunately, it seems that no one could tell us this ahead of time. The cruise line's corporate office radio operations people did not know about this. The on-board radio officers were not aware of this. Even the Norwegian government did not advise us of this potential problem. I did contact the ARRL about this and they felt that the ship's operations might fall under the Norwegian government's version of our FCC part 15. While they do not have access to Norwegian Rules (neither do I), the ARRL seems to have a plausible answer. But we were still stuck without the use of our radios. Fortunately, we had such a good time enjoying each other's company I don't think anyone missed it!

There is one lesson to be learned here, and it isn't the obvious one. I knew most of the hams who went on this trip. There had been many amateur activities that we had worked on together in the past. We spoke on the local repeaters with some regularity. I

knew these people. What I learned was that I only knew one narrow aspect of them, the Amateur Radio aspect. These people have other common interests, problems, life experiences and aspirations than just Amateur Radio. All of us, from many walks of life, are more alike than different. We had a great time together, without a radio.

I think this is why I became a ham. When I was waiting for my first FCC license to arrive, I would dream of getting to know people in far away lands. That dream is still alive in my mind today, but I'll include hams much closer to home too. It was unfortunate that our radio activities came to such an unexpected end. Yet, I wouldn't give up the experience for anything.

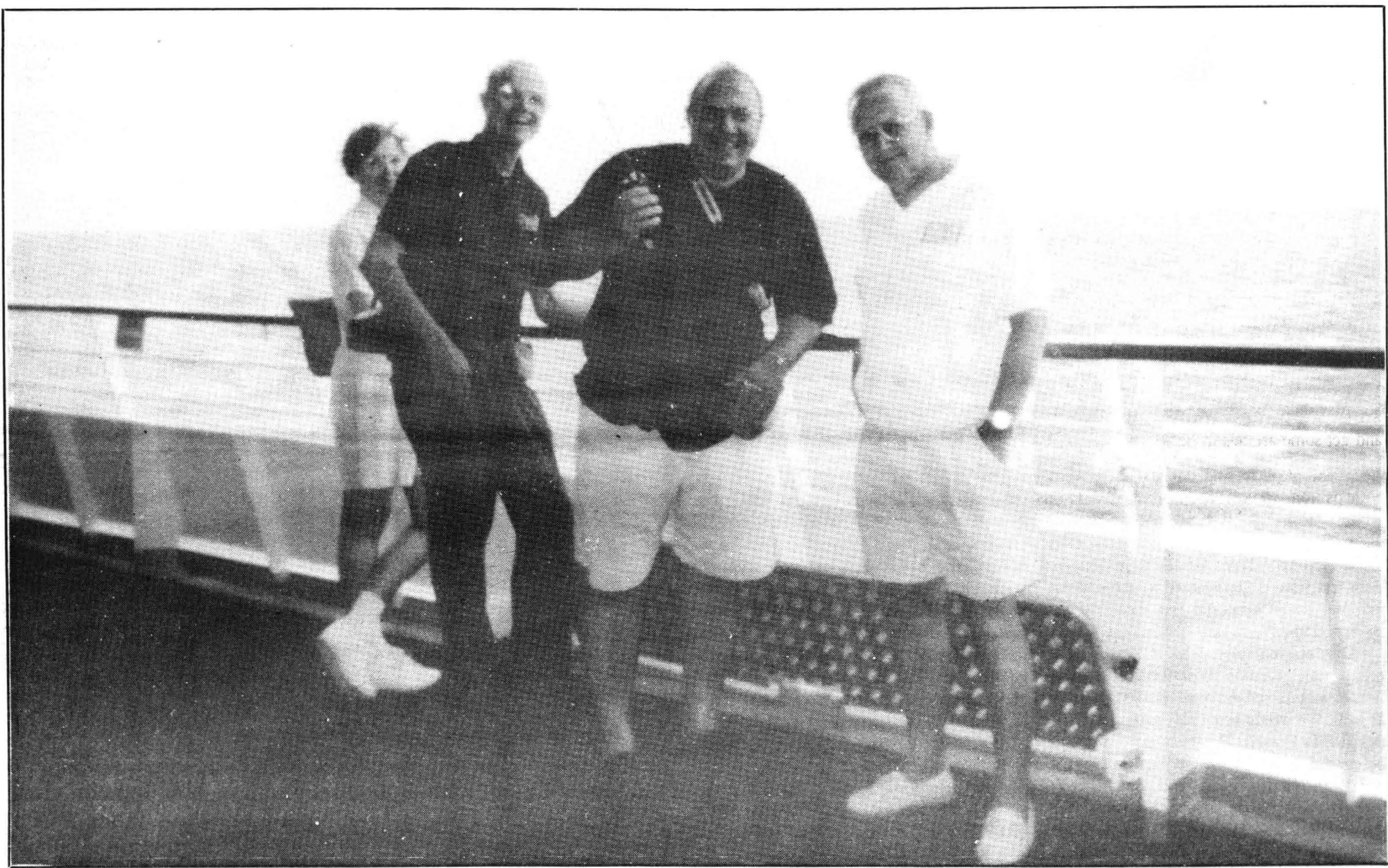
By the way, traveling to other countries and exotic ports of call does rekindle the Amateur Radio flame. Now I have the desire to make more time for the radio. I wonder who's on 17 meters...



TOP: Formal Dinner Photo. Front row left to right: Marie Randelzhofer, Britt-Marie Moxness (N9ZWG), Kathy Voss (KB9KTV), Vickie Kapellusch, Kathy Madson (N9ZWN). Back row left to right: Werner Randelzhofer, Arne Moxness (KA9ZPY), Dave Voss (WB9USI), Mike Kapellusch, Rob Madson (KF9ZT).

BOTTOM: Hamming it up at sea are, left to right: Janet Schroeder (N9LGI), Joe Schroeder (W9JUV), Dave Voss (WB9USI), Arne Moxness (KA9ZPY). Another photo is on page 9.

All photos courtesy Rob Madson/KF9ZT



After all the years, still wet behind the ears!

This was the beginning of the disaster currently called "K9ZZ". An eager 17-year-old ran home from Mission Bay High School in Pacific Beach, California every day to see if anything had arrived from the FCC, following an exam for the Novice license given by Jim Bell, W6DES, a classmate. Well, folks, it did come, more likely in early February. My first station was a 6V6GT (that is a tube, you know, one of those things made of glass and gets hot) crystal oscillator, home built on a cake pan, and link coupled to a 40-meter dipole. The receiver at KN6LWB was a National SW-54. Damned if it didn't all work pretty well. TV sets had 21 MHz IFs then, so even my puny ten watts did a number on TV sets in the area because of the third harmonic. Anyway, this month, I've been a ham for 40 years. In those years, I have made a ton of friends, made a few angry at me, been a DXer (about 280 confirmed before I quit), and even on occasion managed to have fun in the hobby. I took to CW like a fish to water, and still prefer it. By the time we left Pacific Beach to return to Wisconsin (you poor folks!), I had upgraded to General. In 1969, when Incentive Licensing came along, I wanted access to those 25 kHz at the bottom of the DX bands, so I took the Advanced and Extra tests in Milwaukee in January, 1969, and passed 'em. Now, for better or for worse the whole shebang is history, and you have proof positive that poo-poo really *does* happen!

FCC Form 650 Rev. June 1956		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		EXPIRES
STATION CALL SIGN		FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION		3 a. m., e. s. t.
K N 6 L W B		WASHINGTON, D. C.		1-28-59
Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized)				
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2041 GRAND AVE.				
SAN DIEGO 9, CALIF.				
(This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)				
Operator Privileges	Issuing Officer	Effective Date		
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Class				
SEE UPPER RIGHT CORNER FOR EXPIRATION DATE				

- Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

May 1998
bring to you
and yours all
that is good.

Live long
and
Prosper!

It's fun in the Sun!



Here's another photo from the Racine Megacycle Club's cruise of the Caribbean. On board the ship, just before departure from San Juan, Puerto Rico: Left to Right: Britt-Marie Moxness (N9ZWG), Arne Moxness (KA9ZPY), and Kathy Madson (N9ZWN). □

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Continued from page 13

meeting. Gene said he would get together with K9ZZ and get some articles in BSSS.

KA9KLZ reported that he has someone who will make a web page for the WNA. He needs input on the composition of the page and suggested that someone design a logo for the WNA.

New Business

STM Art Evans, KA9KLZ, reported that the NWTN operation has been suspended since Sep. 1, 1997. After some discussion on the matter, this was tabled until a later date.

W9CBE suggested that on SSB net, the NCS call for takers of traffic right after the traffic is listed and send them off frequency to pass traffic. Hale also suggested starting the WSBN at 5:15 to avoid conflict with the Florida Rag Chewers Net. After much discussion, N/M K9UTQ said he would poll the net on the earlier starting time.

K9RTB offered his congratulations and best wishes to K9UTQ. Bob also suggested placing the net preamble and other net info on the web page.

K9UTQ thanked WB9WHQ for taking the WSBN N/M job.

KA9KLZ stated that he has WNA Manuals on disk for anyone who wants one.

KE9VU thanked K9UTQ for bringing the ARRL bulletins to the net.

N9UAR stated that he needs the addresses of the WNA officers. KA9KLZ said he would send them to Bob.

Chairman WB9JSW set March 1, 1998 for the next on-the-air WNA meeting.

With no further business at hand, the chairman called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded (KE9VU/N9BDL) to adjourn. Motion carried, and the WNA on-the-air meeting was adjourned at 1928Z December 14, 1997.

Respectfully submitted:
Art Evans, KA9KLZ,
WNA Secretary

Hams help in wake of Guam typhoon

Ham radio operators helped relay damage assessments and continue to keep open lines of communication between Guam and the Pacific islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the Northern Marianas in the wake of Typhoon Paka. The storm Tuesday caused heavy damage on Guam, but telephone service remains intact, according to Jim Kehler, KH2D, president of the Mariana Islands DX Association. Kehler says the islanders are taking the situation in stride for the most part. "Typhoons in this part of the Pacific are something that everyone knows about and has a respect for, since we have all seen the results previously."

While damage estimates are in the \$200 million range, no one was killed or seriously injured when the storm passed over Guam. "Everybody is just happy to be alive, and nobody is sitting on the curb crying cuz the house got flooded and the car got crushed," Kehler relates. "That's Guam." Kehler says there's a great sense of community on the island, with everyone pitching in to help others get their lives and homes back together in the disaster's wake.

Kehler reports the storm wiped out commercial power and water as well as most of the trees on the island. He estimated that it could be "two or three months" before commercial power is fully restored on Guam.

Kehler said 7.085 MHz is being used for inter-island communication. He said that during the storm's approach, hams on Guam also used 7.085 while tracking its path. During the storm, Kehler's and five other MIDXA stations were operational on 40 meters. The others included WH0AAV on Saipan, KH0CE, on Tinian, and N4UQM/KH2, KH2JU, and K9AW/KH2 on Guam. Kehler said that his ham radio station was not damaged in the storm, but he reports conditions have not been favorable for reliable communication with the mainland with his modest setup.

Several other hams on Guam were not as fortunate and suffered heavy wind and water damage from Typhoon Paka, he said.

Kehler said Paka marked the first storm where he was "really scared." The typhoon is said to have packed record-shattering winds in excess of 200 mph.

The only VHF repeater on Guam survived the storm, but Kehler says it's not being used for emergency communication at this point. Commercial radio stations were put off the air, however.

Kehler said the MIDXA was formed in November after Typhoon Keith struck the Northern Marianas. "One of the reasons was that Rota lost all commercial communications in that storm, and the ham community here was totally unprepared to help," he explained. MIDXA members continue to monitor 7.085, "at least those with a radio, antenna, and a house left," Kehler said, but with commercial power and water out of commission, "Guam is a mess."

In the storm's wake, Red Cross National Headquarters had activated Virginia ARES to coordinate damage assessment recovery information from ham radio sources in the Pacific—primarily Hawaii and Guam. Red Cross National Headquarters is located in Fairfax County, Virginia, and relies heavily on ARES support during disaster responses when normal lines of communication are not available. Information summaries and updates were posted on the Virginia ARES Web site, <http://www.aresva.org>. The Red Cross now has a contingent on Guam and has terminated the Virginia ARES activation "with thanks to everyone who participated in this response."

--thanks to Jim Kehler, KH2D, and Don Mahan, KD4WGV and Frank Mackey, K4EC/Virginia ARES

The ARRL Letter, 12/19/97

26th ANNUAL MIDWINTER

Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics

SWAPFEST

SUNDAY

JANUARY 11, 1998

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WAUKESHA COUNTY EXPO CENTER FORUM
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

ADMISSION: \$4.00 Advance - \$5.00 at Door

RESERVED TABLES: \$4.00 per 4 foot table - \$5.00 at Door (if available)

ELECTRICAL OUTLET: \$10.00 (advance only)

AMATEUR EXAMS: Bring your original license with photocopy, CSCEs with 2 photocopies and two IDs (one must be photo ID)

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Dec. 30, 1997 (early reservations suggested)

THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Midwinter Swapfest • Wisconsin QSO Party • WARAC Memorial Scholarship
For more information please call Phil, W9NAW, 414/425-3649



Advance Registration Form

Admission Tickets \$4.00

_____ @ \$4.00 = _____

Table Reservations \$4.00 for each 4 feet
(table reservation does not include admission)

_____ @ \$4.00 = _____

Electrical Outlet \$10.00 (advance only)

_____ @ \$10.00 = _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

NAME : _____ CALL : _____

STREET : _____

CITY : _____ STATE : _____ ZIP : _____

PHONE : (_____) _____

Mail with business size S.A.S.E. to:

WARAC SWAPFEST
P. O. BOX 1072
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

Waukesha County Expo Center Location



SSB
SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2A in great shape. Complete bag of crystals, and nine Army manuals for it. Includes power supply. Asking \$600.00. Guy Albert Boucher, 107 West Thurd Street, Marshfield WI 54449. Home (715) 384-2069; work (715) 384-2069.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

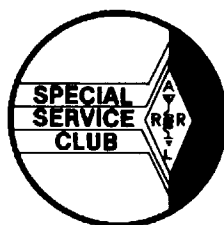
Riverland Amateur Radio Club



Dan Abts, N9PZC
Secretary

Club mail address: P. O. Box 621
Onalaska WI 54650

<http://www.lse.fullfeed.com/~rarc/counties.html>



MEETING MINUTES December 2, 1997

The December meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on December 2, 1997 by President Duane, W9HWQ. There were 19 members in attendance.

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as read by Dan, N9PZC. The treasurer's report was accepted as read by Roger, KA9BKK.

Programs: There was no program this evening due to the election of officers.

444.475 Repeater: The repeater is still in for repair and will cost more to fix than originally estimated. Tom, WB9BJQ, made a motion to authorize the spending of additional money to cover the repairs for the repeater, controller, and power supply. The motion was seconded by Walt, AA9AW, and passed.

Net Manager: Pete, N9XVG, said that the net is going fine, with 15 to 25 check-ins.

ARES/Skywarn: Kent, W9LZQ, reported that the Red Cross now has a page on the web.

Property Manager: Bob, N9LZK, said there was nothing new to report.

146.97 Repeater: Walt, AA9AW, said the repeater is still there.

Field Day: Nothing new.

VE: Roger, KA9BKK, said that four people took tests at the session that was held November 22nd. Two upgraded to General class. Exams are scheduled for February 7, May 9, September 12, and November 7 in 1998. All tests will be held at the Onalaska Public Library at 9:00 a.m.

Old Business

Dick, K0JYB, announced that we have reservations for the annual dinner/awards ceremony at Moxie's on January 17, 1998.

New Business

Rather than raise dues to cover the cost increase, Feroz, WU9N, made a motion to drop automatic *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscriptions for all club members. The motion was seconded by Dick, K0JYB, and passed.

A motion by Kent, W9LZQ, to spend money on insuring club equipment with the ARRL was tabled.

Bob, N9LZK, made a motion to retain dues at the present rate of \$20 per individual and \$25 per family. The motion was seconded by Kent, W9LZQ, and passed.

Roger, KA9BKK, brought up the idea of holding a class for people who want to upgrade to General class. Contact him at (608) 783-0723 if you are interested.

Loren Lewis, WA9TQJ, suggested helping out at the Deke Slayton Airfest '98 as a fund raiser. He will get more information to present at a future meeting.

Shirley, KB9QKV, was accepted as a new club member.

Roger, KA9BKK, was elected club president, Dan, N9PZC, vice president, Pete, N9XVG, secretary, and Maureen, KB9QGD, treasurer.

A motion was made at 8:10 p.m. by Tom, WB9BJQ, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robin, KB9-LAC, and passed.

Respectfully submitted:
Dan N9PZC

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Acting Secretary
213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1730	K9UTX
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1800	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
NWTN	Yes	34/94	0130	1830	NS9Q
(Rhinelander area)					
RCRA	No	01/61	0030	1830	KA9OMC
(Mondays CST) (Menomonie Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245	2045	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0200	2000	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
RACES	No	3993.5	1400	0800	WA9OAY
(LSB Sunday)					

WISCONSIN NTS TRAFFIC REPORT November 1997

Check-ins were down and traffic was up a little in November. 3299 stations passed 1977 pieces of traffic in November in 4850 minutes. That is a message every two and a half minutes. 4850 minutes is just a little bit less than 81 hours. BWN/1646, BEN/91, WSBN/114, WNN, no report from N/M, WSSN/20, WIN-E/67,

and WIN-L/39.

Nine stations reported traffic totals in excess of 100, four of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations are: W9-RCW/892 (BPL), WB9JSW/843 (BPL), W9IHW/724 (BPL), K9JPS/690 (BPL), KB9GEX/432, K9FHI/259, W9CBE/219, W9YCV/138, and N9KHD/119.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes

Continued on page 11

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
ARRL Affiliated

Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary
c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003



MEETING MINUTES December 8, 1997

Instead of the club's general membership meeting for December, a Christmas Pizza Party was held at Buona Vita Pizzeria Restaurant. In lieu of the meeting minutes, we would like to dedicate this

column to our club's SILENT KEYS. We give special thanks to Dick Kehl, WA9-HOH, who started this list and to all those who helped to update it. If any names are missing, it was unintentional. Please forward any updates or corrections to Mary Urban N9ZWE. The names are listed in no particular order.

In Memoriam Racine Megacycle Club Silent Keys

Harold Kent, W9AGX
Don Evans, W9AJF
Harold Kartman, W9APB
Lester Hynek, W9BES
William Marsh, W9BRL
Elton Miottel, W9BVG
Francis Staudenraos, WA9DHO
Ransom Defaut, W9DUR
Steve Soltes, K9EWL
Edwin Kriz, W9FKA
Kenneth Howe, W9HFL
Virgil Daniels, W9IZL
Walter Mills, W9LZW
Larry Guilette, W9KBH
Vilho Kinos, W9KYL
George Butgereit, W9KZU
John Shimkus, W9JJM
Donald Stange, W9NTE
Al Evans, W9OZR
Wilfred Simonsen, W9PFH
Jack Pinard, W9PTF
Lowell McNeill, W9PTN
Raymond Bayer, W9QGR
F. Lee Dechant, W9QC
George Starek, W9RCC
William T. Lewis, W9RM
Ken Hanson, K9SL5
Charles Bresette, W9YYL
Richard Sustachek, W9YPD

Donald Larimer, W9LYP
Anthony Pellegrino, W9TXI
Maurice Otto, W9PMQ
Art Sorenson, W9CAR
Roger Jensen, W9DJT
Bill Lettsom, W9WWH
Lee Lucas, WB9ZKZ
Art Dick, WA9UTB
Stan Fisher, W9EQ
Don Fisher, W9YBA
Elliott Dugas, N9AME
Dick Larsen, NW9M
Bruce Zabler, K9RRS
Bill Halliday, WD9HDW
Ray Geschke, K9ATL
Mike Vittaco, W9PHT
Don Meredith, K9CAL
Dick Johnson, W9ZNB
Willard J. Zahalka, W9CFP
Oscar Harden, WN9TCF
Jim Chalekian, W9HHM
Joseph Karr, N9FAU
Jack Wilkenson, W9STO
Red Barrett, W9JFE
Bert Valley (unknown)
Olin D. Fox, K9AKG
George Porter, W9SZL
Wilbur Fritz, W9YZA
Edwin Lettsome, W9LJF

Quarter Century Wireless Association Scutheastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Radne, WI 53402



Our Christmas social gathering was held on Sunday, December 14th (not on the 12th) at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. A wonderful event! In addition to the menu chosen meal, Bill Komistra, W9OVZ dazzled our taste buds with a delightful holiday cake. Small gifts were exchanged as we partied the afternoon away.

Our first meeting of the new year will be held at the South Fork Restaurant, 3300 Sheridan Road (corner of 7th Avenue) in Kenosha, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, the 19th of January. To garner further details on the event or driving directions, check-in during our Thursday, 9 p.m. weekly net, held on the Lakeshore Association Re-

peater, 147.270 MHz.

Rev Jim, WA0PFV and Meg McChesney are pulling up stakes and heading back to Minnesota to enhance their retirement by surrounded themselves with family members. Best of Luck; and do keep in touch.

The spouses of four members recently had some medical set-backs:

Gladys (Bob, W0WLN) Jensen underwent a battery of tests during a short stay at a local hospital (I am uncertain of the initial symptoms).

Ellanora (Herb W9PHJ) Ladwig experienced a fall at home; her legs at the time

Continued on page 11

Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

MEETING MINUTES December 10, 1997

Roger, W9NPX, called the December meeting of the ManCoRad Amateur Radio Club to order at 1937 hours.

The November minutes as published in the *Badger State Smoke Signals* were accepted.

The treasury report was read by Glenn, AA9MT, and approved. Motion made by Fred, W6BSF, and seconded by Dave, KB9KQA.

Glenn, AA9MT, reported that the club dues are past due in order to get your subscription to *Badger State Smoke Signals* for the next three months. The dues are thirty dollars for a family, twenty dollars for a single, and ten dollars for a student.

Our club Christmas party is December 12 at Cedar Ridge Restaurant, and it looks like there will be a pretty good turnout.

It was brought to the club's attention that anyone seeing articles in newspapers, etc., regarding tower construction to clip them out and bring them to the club meeting.

Since Ron, WS9X, our Thursday night net control is working nights for a few weeks, we are asking for volunteers to take the net. The net meets at 8 p.m. and it is not very hard to do. Bill, K9DUX, is doing a super job on our Sunday morning net.

Janice, N9IQZ, was a spokesperson for her better half, Ron, WS9X, and gave us an update on Sputnik 1. The French and Russians built this miniature satellite. It emits a "bip, bip, bip, bip" on the 2-meter

band. The frequency is 145.82 MHz. If you want more information, contact Ron.

Everyone was reminded of the Saturday morning breakfast at Cleveland this Saturday, December 13. The group meets with some of the Sheboygan group at 8 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

John, N29Z, has a 60 Hz frequency meter in his possession and couldn't remember who asked him to locate it. Please contact John.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dick, N9QFY, and seconded by Julie, N9PZX. The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.

Submitted for approval:
Mary Langer, KB9GOY, Secretary

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Roger	W9NPX
Mary	KB9GOY
Glenn	AA9MT
Ervin	W9OMO
Jan	N9IQZ
Red	N9GHE
Dan	N9FVZ
Dave	KB9KQA
Paul	N9QFX
Dick	N9QFY
Jim	KB9GOX
Denise	N4WGK
Julie	N9PZX
Fred	W6BSF
John	NZ9Z
Bill	K9DUX
Ken	K9HAG
Dan	KA9EAZ

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA members and guests.

Welcome to the new year.

The following were present for our November social hour:

N9LIJ	Jim Fitzl
KB9NIR	Scott Kilde
KE9CS	Kenny Dicks
KF9CU	Arlene and OM Dave
KA9OMC	Steve Hart

Much of our discussion was about the recent paging interference to our repeater. KB9NIR, Scott, also volunteered to program the EPROM chips for the new identifier on the system.

Included in our November report was the notice of Amateur Radio classes being offered by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Contact WB9RBP, Jim Staatz, at (715) 838-9108. Classes start January 10.

Thanks to all who responded to our pledge drive for the repeater and to those who renewed their subscriptions to BSSS. There were quite a few who we did not hear from this year, so we may have to hope that the class in Eau Claire generates new interest.

AA9UK, Rod Steele, has donated an R-100 Knight receiver to new amateur KB9RQE, Dan Holmen, at Colfax. KB9NIR, Scott Kilde, is helping Dan get set up with the radio and instructing him on some soldering techniques.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole at Bloomer, reports that he has completed his cross country flights, solo, and flying into a controlled airport since his instruction at Boyceville.

New Year's resolutions usually mean

starting over and renewing our confidence in ourselves as well as others around us. It is important to emphasize our likeness and make less of our difference. Our community is changing and includes many sounds and appearances that we may not be accustomed to. Operating an open repeater means an open invitation for all to participate. Keeping one's privilege to operate on this repeater means respecting both the participating and potential participants without use of derogatory language to describe people.

Please plan to attend the club auction February 24 at the American Legion Post, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Auction time is 7 p.m. sharp. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for you to set up your items. Equipment should pertain to the electronics hobby. Please mark all items with some identification and what you will accept for a minimum bid. Some snacks and coffee will be provided. W9QAH, Bruce Walther, will auction your items to the highest bidder. The RCRA is not responsible for any loss. Keep track of your stuff. All sales are final and we will auction what time will allow. Admission is \$3 at the door or paid 1998 RCRA support. RCRA will retain 10% of all sales to offset expenses. Come to buy, sell, or just to have fun. See you at the Eau Claire Auction.

The next social hour will be January 27 at 1414 9th Street, Menomonie, at the Peppermill Restaurant in the L-Mart Shopping Center. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the auction.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, President

2373 Willow Avenue • Medford WI 54451

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8 at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

MEETING PROGRAM

Following the January club meeting, the program will consist of the taking of the final exam for the "Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation" course that is being taken by several members of the club and area hams to provide a general introduction to hazardous materials. Those

who have NOT officially enrolled in the course are still welcome to sit in to observe and listen, but may NOT take the final exam and will not receive the completion certificate. The exam will be "open book" and done as a group.

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

• Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at

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QCWA Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Continued from page 10

refused to respond and support her. Hospital testing is continuing at this writing, and it is hoped that a pending MRI will determine the cause.

Marbeth (Ken, N9NBC) Knoff sought a medical opinion for her abdominal pain at a Kenosha Hospital early last month. An x-ray found a multitude of gall stones necessitating the removal of her gall bladder.

Wendy, N9PAC, (Larry, WA9JMO) McCaivy was hobbling around on a foot and leg brace. Her doctor feared she had torn some muscles in her foot. An MRI came back negative.

Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, had been missing from the "airwaves" and our QCWA functions since the middle of August. Bill has been engaged, til the sunset each evening, in the restoration of his home's facade. Bill joined in on our net just prior to our Christmas party to enlighten the membership on his where-

abouts and activities. Bill said he is trying to shake a "backcold" that he acquired while painting his garage door on a blustery autumn afternoon.

In April of 1998, Chief Petty Officer Mike Anderson, WV7T, will retire after 22-years of Naval and community service. Mike was recently honored by receiving the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in recognition of his work in Amateur Radio and MARS. During Mike's evenings and other non-military time he could often be found engaged in refurbishing and recycling donated computer and Amateur Radio systems. Over the past two-years, Mike has given over 180 computer systems to individuals and organizations in need. The ham gear has allowed those lacking equipment to access the airwaves and enjoy communication in its finest modes. Mike, on behalf of the Chapter 162 and our communities, for your untiring and unselfish community concern, Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a most joyous and healthy 1998.

73,
Larry, WA9JMO

Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799

Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

MEETING MINUTES December 11, 1997

The December 11, 1997 meeting of the Washington County ARC was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by president Gary Sutcliffe. The 10 members attending were: Tom, N9LZW; Paul, W9SIZ; Larry, WB9BVB; Ed, KB9RQO; Walt, N9LLS; Bill, N9IBU; Don, K9GR; David, KA9-RNU; Gary, W9XT; and Sherm, W9NGT.

The minutes of the November meeting were read by secretary Tom, N9LZW. There was a motion by Bill, N9IBU, seconded by Sherm, W9NGT to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by treasurer Dave, KA9RNU. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Larry, WB9BVB, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Don, K9GR, gave a Repeater Commit-

tee report. Don said that there have been no changes with the repeater during the past month. He has received good reports about its operation. Rick Robinson, N19Z, a former club member now living in Fond du Lac, has reported that he is able to use our repeater all the way from Fond du Lac to Milwaukee during his weekday travels.

Don said that a circuit board for the receive PL module has not been obtained yet. He also explained that the controller which the club has purchased is actually a homebrew controller and not an S-COM like previously stated.

Sherm stated that the IDer with this controller is an EPROM that can be reprogrammed. Sherm said that the ID speed is also variable. Sherm has talked with the technician who has been tuning our repeater and he said he will recheck the receiver and preamp now that the new duplexer is in use.

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Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Continued from page 10

the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost

every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent VIA packet or e-mail.

My packet address is: KA9KLZ @ KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is: aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73

Submitted by:
Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section
Traffic Manager
December 7, 1997



E.C.A.R.C.

eau CLaire

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Burch Kelly, KB9RBN, Secretary
P.O. Box 1867 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
<http://www.ecarc.org>

Annual Club Christmas Party and Meeting Tuesday, December 9, 1997 Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Building

The Christmas party officially started at 6:00 p.m. Before dinner, Rev. Paul, W0AIH, led the group in prayer. Dinner was provided and enjoyed by all. After Dinner, Rev. Paul, W0AIH, led the singing of a variety of Christmas Carols. "Jack, N9UXH" Santa Claus gave out gifts to all the children, first the young, then the young at heart. Seventy-five people were in attendance, a good turnout.

The brief business meeting was called to order by Burt, W9ZZI. Jim, WB9RBP, passed the financial statement out to the members for review. Carl, W9NW, requested that club members turn any remaining ballots into him. With no further

ballots offered, Carl announced the winners of the election of the officers. The new officers are:

President: Tim McCaughey, KB9JOE

Vice President: Fred Harlson, KC9NN

Secretary: Burch Kelly, KB9RBN

Treasurer: Jim Staatz, WB9RBP

The lunch committee volunteers for the January meeting are:

Tim, KB9JOE

Joe, KB9R

Burt, W9ZZI

Burch Kelly, KB9RBN
Secretary

Washington County Amateur Radio Club

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ANNUAL BANQUET

Dave, KA9RNU, said that Heidel's has reserved Saturday, January 10, 1998 for the club's Annual Banquet. Dave provided a handout that listed the details for the banquet and included a reservation form. The handout indicates that a social hour will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A family-style dinner, served at 7:00 p.m., includes: sliced turkey with dressing, barbecued ribs, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, lettuce salad, and cherry cheesecake. The cost for the dinner including tax and gratuity is \$13.50. Heidel's is located on Hwy P about 1 mile south of Jackson. Reservations with payment must be postmarked by January 2, 1998. Make checks payable to WCARC and mail to Dave Parkinson, 1811 Longmeadow Road, West Bend, WI 53095.

ARES

Emergency Coordinator Walt, N9LLS, said that there had been no ARES activity since the Hartford Christmas parade.

FOOD COMMITTEE

Larry, WB9BVB, said that this Saturday mornings breakfast would be at the Mineshaft in Hartford at 9:00 A.M.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

No representative of the program committee was in attendance.

NOMINATIONS

President Gary, W9XT, asked for nominations for club offices because elections would take place at the January meeting. Larry, WB9BVB, nominated Jim, KB9LTW, for president. Larry, WB9BVB, nominated Tom, N9LZW, for secretary, although, Tom said he would like to see someone else take over for awhile. Don, K9GR, nominated Walt, N9LLS for vice president after asking Walt if he would accept a nomination. Don, K9GR, nominated Rip, W9SIZ, for president after first asking Rip if he would accept. Sherm, W9NGT, seconded the nomination of Rip, W9SIZ, for president.

Gary, W9XT, said that nominations would be reopened again at the January meeting. Don, K9GR, reminded Gary that he would still need to appoint a nominating committee according to the club's By-laws. The committee of three will be Don, K9GR; Larry, WB9BVB; and Bill, N9IBU. Gary announced that nominations at this meeting were closed.

CLUB BANNER

Gary said that he had received an estimated quote of \$70.00 for a 4 foot by 2 foot banner. This banner is of a durable

plastic type. Camera-ready artwork would be required. Walt, N9LLS, said the company he has contacted has more colors available for the background so we will be using that company for the banner. Thirteen members would be needed to approve any funding for this banner and only ten were present tonight. Gary, W9XT, said this item of business would be tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Don, K9GR, proposed a project for someone to do for the homebrew contest. He said he has a schematic with metering and switching circuits which would monitor the operation of our repeater. Sherm said he has the necessary meter and switch and 1 percent tolerance resistors. Other requirements would be a motherboard, speaker leads and special design male plugs.

OPERATION SANTA

Dave, KA9RNU, said that the club should consider becoming involved with the Milwaukee area's Operation Santa. Tom, N9LZW, and Walt, N9LLS, said they had previously inquired of the shelters and hospitals in our county and that there doesn't seem to be a need for it here. Operation Santa takes place on Christmas Eve. Our shelters place all clients in private homes and our hospitals have no young patients at that time.

There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Bill, N9IBU, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom, N9LZW, secretary

Club Calendar

Thu, 01/01/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730, (Happy New Year)

Fri, 01/02/98, 5:00 p.m., Banquet reservations mailed by today

Sat, 01/03/98, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson

Thu, 01/08/98, 7:30 p.m., Annual club meeting
1. Election of Officers
2. Proposed amendments to constitution
3. Authorize club banner

Sat, 01/10/98, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford

Sat, 01/10/98, 6:00 p.m., Annual Banquet at Heidel's

Thu, 01/15/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730

Sat, 01/17/98, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Slinger Inn in Slinger

Thu, 01/22/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730

Sat, 01/24/98, 9:00 A.M., Breakfast, Corfu in Richfield

Thu, 01/29/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

MEETING MINUTES December 2, 1997

The meeting was called to order by Jim N9SDI. Members present were N9SDL, KB9DZG, KB9FRB, N9IAB, N9TTA, N3FDE, KB9MCZ, K9QM, KB9DED, N9NMH, N9OWD, WD9CPY, N9PHC, and N9MEA. The minutes from last month's meeting were not read from a motion by K9QM and 2nd by N9MEA. Treasure's report was approved after a motion by KB9DED and 2nd by KB9DZG.

Upcoming events were discussed, such as Special Olympic Winter games to be held February 21st and 22nd 1998. Badger State Winter games on February 7th and 8th 1998. Will be looking for communications volunteers for these events.

We will be having a club sponsored Special Event Station for the 150th celebration of Wisconsin's Statehood. We will be operating at the 45/90 marker which is also the corner of four grid squares, 44, 45, 54 and 55. The date will be Friday, May 29 6:00p.m. until Saturday, May 30 at 6:00 p.m. We will be applying for a special 1 X 1 call. Operators interested, see a board member.

Under old business, the status of the 6-

meter repeater was discussed with, KB9DED going to make arrangements with WX9W to remove it for needed work.

The club will be ordering the ARRL video library of nine tapes for use as club programs and for ham class programs; cost of \$100. This was approved by a motion from N9SLD and 2nd by K9QM and passed by members present.

Complimentary WVRA one year memberships will be issued to members of the current ham class who successfully pass the no-code Tech test on the 15th of December. Approved by motion of WD9CPY and 2nd by N9TTA and members.

The program for the January meeting will be soldering techniques by Jack, N9LA.

Please note the meeting location is at Wausau Metals for January.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion from N9TTA and 2nd from KB9DED.

Thanks to Phil, KB9DZG, for his circuit board design demo which was the program for the meeting. He's really done some neat things / inventions.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze,
N9SDL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

249 Georgia Street North • Stevens Point WI 54481-1040

MEETING MINUTES

President Mike Pagel (K9UW) called the meeting to order at 8:05 December 10. Prior to the meeting members viewed the video *Field Day Fever*. There are several purposes and goals in field day operations, but the primary focus is emergency preparedness.

Motion made by Mary Eiden (KA9FAS) and seconded by Mike Eiden (WD9JID) to accept the minutes as recorded by the secretary was passed.

The financial report given by treasurer Joe Larson (N9JW) was accepted as read.

There were no official repeater reports, although some members remarked of unexplained noises and continuing interference on 146.985 repeater. Mike Pagel (K9UW) suggested that the repeater be monitored more closely so that it can be determined as to who or what is the source of the interference.

The subject of EC was again discussed at some length with no conclusion being reached. Mike Pagel (K9UW) reminded us that the Portage County Emergency Director expects us to have a plan in place by March 1998; that makes it imperative we appoint an EC at the February meeting.

As promised, Mike Pagel (K9UW) prepared and delivered a "member packet." The packet includes the constitution, by-laws, members' directory and more, which will make us better informed. He also suggested that we open the club station at least once a month to meet informally, perhaps on the last Saturday of the

month at 10:00 a.m. Motion to accept the proposal and the club paying for coffee and donuts on a trial basis was made by John Feltz (W9JN), seconded by Al Maliek (K9WVM), passed unanimously. We will begin this beginning January 1998.

Joe Larson (N9JW) gave a report on the completion of his recent Novice/Tech class, and as a result, we should see a few new members. Joe will be teaching a "General Class" sometime this spring, tentatively mid-March 1998. This class is not only for club members but is open for anyone interested in upgrading.

John Feltz (W9JN), Swapfest Chairman, reviewed plans for 1998. He has obtained the use of the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Junction City, to be the new site with a large paved lot and excellent facilities. John was commended for developing the new ad in BSSS and a new swapfest flyer.

Scott Jasper (NE9U) will chair the swapfest raffle, distribution of tickets and obtain appropriate prizes. Spending will be approximately the same amount as last year.

Scott also proposed that two 220-radios owned by the club that are not being used be sold and that the proceeds from their sale buy another 430 MHz radio to be put in the club station for our uplink to the NETROM node on top of the Sentry Insurance building. A motion was made by David Tamres (KB9IIF) and seconded by Mary Eiden (KA9FAS) to allow Scott

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Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

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8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

The following Amateur Radio operators assisted in providing radio communi-

cations services for the 26th Annual Abbotsford Christmas Parade held in downtown Abbotsford, WI on 12/6/97: WA9ZCO, N9GHZ, N9MHV, KB9BLV, N9GEN, N9UWY and N9RRF.

OTHER NEWS

The next scheduled meetings of the Black River Wireless Assn. (BRWA) are 2/26/98, 4/9/98 and 5/14/98, all Thursdays. The meetings start at 7:15 PM, are open to all area Amateur Radio operators, and will be held at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, Wis.

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, Secretary
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. • Appleton, WI 54915



Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB at 1:10 p.m. It was held at Gullivers in Neenah.

Introduction of members and guests:

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS
Nels Harvey, WA9JOB
Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ
Richard R. Kosiorek, W9RIC
Virgil Burmeister, WB9MHS
Margaret Burmeister, WD9EGA
Jim Sheetz, K9OQO
Gary Bargholz, N9UUR
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's report

The newsletter expense was \$228.97. Our current Balance is \$2286.07. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report. It was seconded and approved.

Coordination Report

Dan Bolander has been doing a heck of a job with coordination. He is presently in Florida and is doing his job from there via E-mail and forwarded mail.

Chairman's Report

It's time to consider nominations for election of officers at the March meeting. Nels is not a candidate for next year. Nels nominated Gary, N9UUR for the chairman's position. Gary comes with good credentials. He's very active on VHF and UHF. He has the ability to be an excellent leader for this group.

The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters is affiliated with the Mid-America Coordination Council and Nels is the vice-president of MACC. MACC is a consortium of about 22 states. Members of MACC recognize WAR as the coordinators for Wisconsin.

The National Frequency Coordination Council is a new group that started about two and a half years ago. They have had one meeting that was two years ago in October in the St. Louis area. They had frequency coordinators from all over the country. Most of the business is being done on E-mail. E-mail is very convenient for interfacing with the different coordinators from all around the country.

The NFCC is having a vote on two positions for Board of Directors and four issues. There are six candidates for NFCC directors:

Whit Brown, WB0CJX
Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW
Jim Fortney, K6LYK
Bill Kelsey, W6QC
Clay Freinwald, K7WR
Don Smith, W6NKF

The state of Wisconsin gets three votes based on the amateur population census. Nels will put in all three votes for Whit Brown, WB0CJX, and Clay Feinwald, K7CR.

The first amendment is to change the current required 75% majority of all votes possible to a minimum of 66% of the votes submitted. Nels will cast all three of WAR's votes in favor of this amendment.

The second amendment is the same language for another portion of the by-laws. Nels will cast all three of WAR's votes in favor of this amendment.

The third amendment is for the election of directors to occur on September 1st of each year. Voting shall be by electronic ballot except timely mail ballot shall be accepted. If there is a membership and board meeting 30 days proceeding September 1st, the election of the board of directors shall occur at that meeting. Ballots shall be mailed only to members without electronic mail. Nels will vote against this amendment because he wants a ballot to be mailed to everyone.

The fourth amendment is to define a quorum as: Fifty percent (50%) of all voting members, either present or the sum of those present and valid written proxies shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an in-person meeting. Fifty percent (50%) return on mail AND/OR ELECTRONIC ballots sent to the entire Membership constitutes a quorum for the tallying of mail or electronic ballots. NO ISSUE SHALL BE DECIDED, REGARDLESS OF THE VOTING METHOD, UNLESS A QUORUM OF VOTES ARE CAST. SHOULD A VOTE FAIL TO DRAW THE REQUIRED FIFTY PERCENT TO SATISFY THE QUORUM, NO FURTHER BUSINESS SHALL BE CONDUCTED UNTIL A QUORUM IS PRESENT. Nels will cast all three of WAR's votes in favor of this amendment.

Old Business

There was much discussion about whether the newsletter should be mailed to everyone regardless if the repeater update is current or not. A motion was made that the newsletter should be mailed to everyone on all four mailings. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jim Decker, WB9UQT, became a silent key recently. Jim Decker was the treasurer for *Badger Smoke Signals*. We are all saddened by this loss.

The next meeting is March 14, 1998. It will be at the Bay Family Restaurant in Green Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted by
Mark Heimmermann
W.A.R. Secretary

Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs

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Jasper (NE9U) to purchase and install the new radio. Motion passed.

Regarding the non-profit status of the club, Scott Jasper (NE9U) will begin to pursue the matter as time permits with help from other members.

Some members have suggested that the club acquire various equipment and tools for our Field Day station/trailer. This equipment will be permanently assigned to the club. There are individuals who are willing to contribute equipment if approached. Mike Pagel (K9UW) has made up the following wish list: Top section for a Rohn 20 tower; kit for TA-33JR; storage tubes on trailer; HD masts; Dacron guy rope; small tools, such as needle nose pliers and side cutters; deep well sockets to fit tower, rotor and antennas; knife; hammer; screwdrivers; wrenches; nut drivers; solder gun; tape; and assorted

hardware. It would help if all members could donate any extra tools and hardware to the club.

REMINDER . . . JANUARY 14, 1998: ANNUAL CLUB BANQUET: Send your reservation by January 8 -- send no money. Members will make their own menu selections and pay their guest checks and gratuities at the banquet

Respectfully submitted,
Al Mallek (N9WBS)
Club Secretary

Meeting Attendance

Mike Pagel	K9UW
Joe Larson	N9JW
Mike Eiden	WD9JID
Mary Eiden	KA9FAS
David Tamres	KB9IIF
Scott Jasper	NE9U
Al Mallek	K9WVM
John Feltz	W9JN
Jerry Fadness	W9GF
Al Mallek	N9WBS

WISCONSIN NETS ASSOCIATION LTD.

On-the-Air Meeting December 14, 1997

WNA Chairman Carl Plotz, Jr., WB9JSW, called the meeting to order on 3985 kHz at 1832Z on December 14, 1997. The chairman requested the secretary to call the roll. The following WNA members and guests were present:

WB9JSW, KA9KLZ, K9FHI, K9UTQ, W9CBE, N9UAR, W9RCW, W9IHW, K9JPS, KE9VU, W9KKM, N9BDL, WB9ICH, W9YCV, K9RTB, K9FA, and K0PSH.

The chairman called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as they were published in BSSS. A motion was made and seconded (N9BDL/K9UTQ) to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried.

The chairman then called for the treasurer's report, WNA Treasurer N9UAR submitted the following report:

Balance on hand 8/24/97	\$281.95
Income since last meeting	83.80
Expense since last meeting	32.30
Balance on hand 12/14/97	333.45

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as given. Motion carried.

ARRL Officials Reports

Section Manager -- Roy Pedersen, K9FHI, reported that the OO for Wisconsin has resigned, and Rick Elsener, W9RCW, has been appointed as the new OO. Roy inquired as to who is the Wisconsin Ham of the Year. Roy also reported that KE9VU, BEN N/M, may have to resign due to job changes. Roy urged all NCS's to get their net reports in to the N/M as soon as possible. Roy also reported that Daytime 9th Region nets need more NCS's and liaison stations. Roy also urged stations to pick up the net if a net control station does not show up to start the net. Roy announced that K9UTQ has resigned as WSBN N/M effective Dec. 31, 1997. Dan Novotny, WB9WHQ, has been appointed as WSBN N/M. Roy also commented that his two year term as SM will be up soon. Roy said he might take another term.

Section Traffic Manager -- Art Evans, KA9KLZ, reported that with the exception of the NWTN, all nets are doing fine. The NWTN has been suspended due to lack of participation and the future of the net will have to be discussed.

Net Manager Reports

Badger Weather Net (BWN) -- Net Manager W9RCW complimented K9UTQ for his years of service and welcomed WB9WHQ as the new WSBN N/M. Rick reported that the BWN is alive and well and averaging 43-44 check-ins and 52-53 messages per session. Rick reported that band conditions have been bad since late November. Rick would like to see more participation in the BWN. Rick stated that elaborate equipment is not needed. Rick said that the NWS (National Weather Service) considers the BWN a premier

Service) considers the BWN a premier operation and would like to duplicate it in others states. Rick also stated that more OO stations are needed and if anyone is interested, to contact him. Rick can be reached by phone, e-mail, or snail mail. BWN delegate WB9JSW remarked that AA0OM is still helping with relays. BWN delegate K9JPS gave a big thank you to AA0OM, K7OVD, W9DLY and N9TMI for acting as relays.

Badger Emergency Net (BEN) -- Net Manager Wayne Schanke, KE9VU, thanked K9UTQ for his service to the nets. Wayne reported that the BEN is doing well, averaging about 21 check-ins per session. Wayne stated that more 9RN reps are needed and some substitute NCS's are needed. Wayne thanked all of the stations who take the traffic. BEN delegate W9KKM reported that he will be gone during January.

Wisconsin Sideband Net (WSBN) -- Net Manager Gene Santoski, K9UTQ, thanked everyone for their kind comments. Gene said that he was WSBN N/M in the 60s and 70s and then was STM for 10 years. And then WSBN N/M again. Gene reported that NCSs are a problem on weekends. The net averages 22 check-ins and 3 messages cleared. Gene thanked everyone for all of the support they have given him over the years. WSBN delegates K9FHI and N9UAR thanked Gene for his years of service.

Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN) -- WNN N/M Rob Wilcken, KA9GBG, was not present. N9BDL reported that the net is doing well. Lee stated that Rob is a minister and sometimes he just cannot make the net. Lee remarked that the Novice Net is a good place to get started in CW traffic handling with slower code speed (8-10 WPM).

Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) -- Net Manager Lee Andreas, N9BDL, stated that the WSSN is a training net, with code speed 14-15 WPM. Lee reported that the band has been fairly good lately. Lee also said that the net needs more NCS stations.

Wisconsin Interstate Net/Early (WIN/E) -- Net Manager Larry Guthu, WB9ICH, wished the best of luck to K9UTQ and thanks to WB9WHQ. Larry reported 208 check-ins and 95 messages cleared with some rough nights of propagation. Larry said that the net is averaging 7 check-ins per session and that there was about 5 hours of total net time. Larry said that more liaisons from the SSB net are needed. And more Night 9RN reps are needed to give the regulars a break.

Wisconsin Interstate Net/Late (WIN/L) -- WIN/L Net Manager Ron Tlachac, W9UW, was not present. W9YCV reported that there is usually a 9RN rep and most of the traffic gets passed. Les reported that band conditions are pretty rough at 10 pm. Les also reported that N9BDL fills in as NCS.

North Woods Traffic Net (NWTN) -- Net Manager Mary Berger, NS9Q, has suspended operation of the NWTN.

Old Business

The chairman called for a report from the Committee for Promotion of Nets and Traffic Handling. K9UTQ reported that not much had been done since the August

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SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Secretary
N9001 Dairyland Dr., Cleveland WI 53015

The December 9th meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Kurt, N9ZMO. The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan at 7 p.m.

In committee reports, Steve, N9TRK, gave the treasurer's report. There is \$1523.13 in the club checking account.

Art, K9XJ, gave his monthly DX report. Thanks Art, for taking the time to prepare these reports for us.

The flat tube award was given to Steve, AA9SJ. Steve has been helping get the club's newly aquired tri-band beam into operation.

In upcoming club events, the next regular meeting will be on January 13th, and the next VE session will be Saturday, January 17th. The annual banquet is coming up in February. For details, attend the

January meeting, or tune in to the Monday night net.

Net Schedules

7 p.m. Monday Nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

Traders Net - Following the Monday night net on the first Monday of the month.

6:30 p.m. Thursday Nights, ARES Net, 147.255 PL 127.3, +, 444.175 PL 107.2 +.

10 net on 28.350 USB. Meets at 7:30 p.m., following the Monday night 2 meter net.

Respectfully submitted:
Michael J. Musiel, KF9SJ



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

WAPR News - January 1998

Happy New Year, everybody! Here's hoping that the new year treats you well and everything you hope to see in 1998 comes your way.

Not much network news to report right now. After a long absence, the Green Bay Node Stack should be back on the air about the time you read this. We had an antenna go bad and the replacement should be in place.

You will notice in this issue that we've added something - an editorial. This may or may not become a regular part of this page in future editions. This month, we had a subject come up for the "Using the Wisconsin Network" that begged additional comment. Internet gateways are becoming more commonplace, and I have been involved with the new gateway in Appleton. So it was kind of natural that the topic came up. WAPR is closely involved in network development, so it is clearly something our membership may wish to know about.

As noted in the editorial and the column, there is a bit of controversy surrounding the use of the internet in packet radio. There is also a lack of understanding and more than a little bit of confusion concerning them. That is one reason why taking this look at gateways can help you be better informed as you form an opinion on this topic.

While there are a number of varying opinions on the subject, there appear to be two "camps" forming, pro and con. A lot of packet operators have not formed an opinion on this, maybe because they do not know enough about the subject just yet. That is where the column and editorial come in. This month we classify the different types of gateways, next month we will continue showing you more of the interactive internet gateway.

The editorial serves to let everyone know my feelings on the subject - encourage the continued radio development of our network, while giving careful thought to how gateways affect this development.

I also invite your responses and commentary on the subject. I will in turn publish them here. You can mail me the "old fashioned" way, or send me your comments via packet mail at

KB9ALN@KB9ALN.#GRB.WI.USA.NOAM.

Until next month, 73 from Andy..

Andy Nemec

andy@hardware.cae.wisc.edu

Amateur Radio: kb9aln.ampr.org

WAPR Editorial - January 1998

In the last year or so, regular users of the BBSs here in Wisconsin have undoubtedly seen the debate involving Amateur Packet Radio linkage to the Internet. I thought this would be a good time to bring this issue into the open. What you see here are my opinions, although there is some agreement amongst the WAPR board members with the point of view presented here.

Amongst the reasons we are covering Internet Gateways in the "Using the Wisconsin Network" series is to show you what they are, what they can do, and how they will affect the future of Amateur Radio network in Wisconsin as well as nationally. In this month's installment, the different types of gateways are defined and examples of their uses are given. In addition, we look at a little bit of how they are set up.

I feel that gateways can, like most things, be a mixture of good and bad. You can be exposed to a wealth of valuable information and resources available on the internet, certainly a positive thing. On the other hand, there is a lot of material that is simply not suitable for a radio environment - even digital radio.

This aspect of the gateway issue - whether anyone wants to assume the risk of an interactive gateway - is best left to the local packet operators to deal with. I think WAPR is more interested in the statewide ramifications of internet gateways and how they fit into overall network development. And that is the focus of this editorial.

I feel that the interactive gateway can be a valuable service to the packet radio community when it is properly supervised. However, putting a gateway into service should be done with a cautious eye toward network capacity. How will a gateway impact the network? Will it load user LAN

frequencies heavily? Will the added traffic on the backbone inconvenience users engaged in other activities? If the gateway is to be located in a populated area running at or near network capacity, will it complicate things for other network users? This is the kind of thing that WAPR takes an interest in, and rightly so. Not for "regulatory" purposes, but rather, to gain a knowledge base on a new operating mode and to attempt adjustments to the packet radio network if possible.

More knowledge on these topics translates to better coordination of network construction and maintenance. That is what WAPR is all about - statewide packet radio networking.

Which brings us to the basis of packet radio and how it relates to the other kinds of internet linkages discussed in this month's column. For the last year or so, TAPR (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Association) has advocated a strong linkage between the internet and amateur packet radio. They point out that the Internet has become very reliable, whereas radio transmission of data is subject to all sorts of problems. TAPR feels that the future of amateur radio networking lies in using radio interfaces into the internet, using the internet to complete the packet "radio" network. In fact, TAPR has been designing and constructing a 900 MHz Spread Spectrum data radio intended for this purpose. In effect, every entry point to the packet radio network would operate as a "wormhole" to another part of the packet radio network. Their rationale is that radio's best use in a network setting is to provide mobility rather than interconnectability.

I certainly have sympathy toward those who express frustration over getting data radio systems to work correctly. But I do respectfully disagree with the philosophy of TAPR when it comes to integrating the Internet into our packet radio infrastructure. As difficult as radio can be, isn't that what we are all about?

In other words, I disagree the use of the internet to complete our network. I feel that amongst the many suitable uses for packet radio, emergency communications is one of them. An effective emergency data communications network should not be reliant on the Internet. As reliable as it can be, it is subject to failure. When we are called to action, it is generally under the most extreme of circumstances, and we can't simply say "our internet provider has been wiped out, sorry, we can't help you".

Mobility and portability are very much important uses for radio linkages. However, I think that independent data links - radio links - are an absolute necessity. Further, they should not be protocol-limited, and open to all types of

traffic.

Having said this, I realize that this is not a perfect world. Sometimes the facilities to make a radio linkage are simply not there, or unusable. Internet Mail Forwarding may be the only way to get mail in and out of some places. When we do deal in disaster work we also have to remember that one of our node sites may well experience problems in a disaster. So it does make sense that we do not discourage anyone from experimenting with internet linkages of any legal kind. As emergency communicators, we have the unenviable task of trying to make communications flow smoothly. If using the Internet temporarily will do the trick because a radio system is down, then I feel that this is a positive thing.

A heavy reliance on the Internet to complete a packet "radio" infrastructure limits our emergency communications capabilities, in my view. One thing I have learned as an Emergency Coordinator is that duplication of facilities is essential. In fact, it can make the difference between a successful disaster relief effort and some rather saddening post-disaster critiques. While we can't duplicate the internet with radio, a radio and internet capable network is certainly a step toward success. Relying solely on internet linkages has a built-in limitation.

So in short, interactive gateways for educational and informational purposes are a positive thing. Using the internet for networking or mail forwarding is best left as a temporary solution, or one reserved for the worst radio circumstances. Additionally, I would like to encourage the amateur radio community to look toward radio for networking solutions rather than exclusive internet connections.

Necessity is the mother of invention. If we are to make packet radio work on a grand scale, we will have to be inventive and investigate other ways of doing things. We will also have to look at better networking protocols, different modulation and data encoding schemes, spread spectrum and even satellite. Technology can be certainly make shortcomings readily apparent, but it can also provide solutions for these problems.

We are on the verge of great changes in packet radio. Let's keep our minds open to new ways of doing things and new things to do with packet radio. By all means, let's try our hardest to keep it radio!

Andy Nemec

andy@hardware.cae.wisc.edu

Amateur Radio: kb9aln.ampr.org

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24HRS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKETINTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

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COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals. made payable to W.A.P.R. (NOT payable to Bob Gedemer) to:

Bob Gedemer KA9JAC/WAPR
609 Wilson St.
Neenah, WI. 54956-3129

Using the Wisconsin Network - Part 35

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Packet Radio, since its inception, has undergone a considerable amount of change. The first big leap after Digipeating was the BBS. Net/Rom (TheNet), TCP/IP, APRS, and promises of more yet have been slowly appearing. Now we are starting to see even more change, and the latest evolution of packet radio is not without controversy. In the next few series of articles, we will explore the Internet Gateway to discover its draw and see why it has been the target of so much controversy.

Defining an internet gateway can be confusing to some folks - there is some new terminology, and before we go further, we had best define what a gateway is and its close cousins.

An interactive gateway allows users to connect to the internet through packet radio and utilize the many services found there. In some cases, access is limited to "Amateur Only" sites, still others will allow full access (well, all except the sites that are not appropriate for the air).

This gateway also will go "the other way". Users can log in via the Internet, and have access to the radio network. Potential packeteers can get a taste of this mode before they lay out money for this equipment.

This type of gateway usually greets the logged-on user with a conventional BBS interface. Most of these gateways use TNOS or JNOS to perform the linkage to the Internet. Aside from the BBS commands you are used to seeing (like Send, Read, Kill, List, etc.), there will be a few unfamiliar ones (like telnet).

Most interactive gateways will support AX.25, Net/Rom (TheNet), TCP/IP and round-table discussions, similar to the "Internet Relay Chat". You may send and receive E-Mail through the internet, through the BBS network, connect up to distant Amateur sites on the internet, and use it as a conventional Network Node on radio or the internet. In that sense, the commands mirror the nodes that you are used to.

Some of these interactive gateways also provide this "wormhole" service that treats a distant node as just another node on the network. New York becomes just as local to the network as "the next town over" when using a wormhole in this manner.

Another type of gateway is the dedicated point-to-point wormhole gateway. Unlike a fully interactive gateway, it is limited to providing this "wormhole" service only and is not intended to provide users with full access to the internet. It becomes a bridge to complete a radio network. For example, there could be a wormhole between a system in Milwaukee and one in Florida. The goal is a seamless linkage between two user LANs in different parts of the country. This has generated a bit of controversy, as the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Association (TAPR) has been promoting the idea of using the internet to complete the national packet radio network in this manner.

Mail Forwarding Gateways do not provide real-time access to the internet, and it does not complete a radio network on a real-time basis. Rather, it is used by two BBS's to exchange mail via the internet. Most often, this is used when radio paths are unreliable or unavailable. This practice has been the subject of controversy as well. While we will not attempt to enter the controversy in this column, the explanation should help you understand what each service is and may help you understand the debate better.

Now that we know what types of gateways have found use, we can talk about how they are constructed. It is not too hard to understand, but it is not your typical packet station. Let's talk about the first case, a fully interactive internet gateway.

Any type of gateway is constructed with two or more "ports". One will go to the internet and may well be a phone modem, or it could be a network "ethernet" card hooked up to some kind of network that eventually reaches the internet. In any case, this port allows an interface with the internet.

The other ports are connected to a node stack, or become a node stack. It is possible for one of these computers to act as a full node and network router. In the case of the machine being tied to a node stack, the serial port of the computer is "multiplexed" into the serial ports of the TNC's. This is the same situation as a normal node stack - the computer is just treated as another TNC.

In the case of the computer performing the task of a node stack, the TNC's are connected to serial ports of the computer. The TNCs operate in KISS mode and the computer software does all of the work normally reserved for the node firmware.

From there, the rest of the node stack - radios, antennas, etc. - are the same as in a conventional node stack. So the internet gateway can either replace the normal node firmware, or augment it.

Now that we have our look at gateways, we will further explore how to use them in the next installment of "Using the Wisconsin Network". Until then, 73 from Andy.

Andy Nemec
andy@hardware.cae.wisc.edu
Amateur Radio: kb9aln.ampr.org



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)



Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959

The December Meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was held at the Farm Kitchen Restaurant on Friday December 19, 1997. There was no old business, no new business, just good food, good conversation, good company, and a good time had by all.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m., room 14, Baraboo Civic Center.

Sincerely,
Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, club secretary

The following members and guests were present:

Bill Klinkner N9KXX Sauk City
Anne Klinkner N9PQL Sauk City

Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Karen Schulze		Baraboo
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
George Gabay	N9QQR	New Lisbon
Joseph Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Nancy Spearing		Portage
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Carol Wagner		Baraboo
Jim Paul		Baraboo
Ken Johnson	K9DZG	Mazomanie
Dixie Johnson		Mazomanie
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Kim Harrison		Reedsburg
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL (ARRL/VEC)
Contact: Frank Stankiewicz, (847) 437-1464.

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST
EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST
GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST
HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST
KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST
MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST
MARSHFIELD, WI - HAMFEST
OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST
RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST
ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST
ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST
SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST
DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC
Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX,
2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

LOVES PARK, IL
Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION
From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)
Contact: Jay Bellows, K0QBE (612) 222-7253
Test Site: St. Paul Technical College
235 Marshall Ave.
St Paul, MN
TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)
Contact: Joe Wivoda, N0AU, (612) 753-6481
Test Site: Blaine City Hall
9150 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN
TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management
(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))
Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756
Test Site: Creekside Community Center
98th & Penn Avenue S
Bloomington, MN
TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)
Contact: Bill Martin, KA0CIR (612) 432-0438
Test Site: Hayes Community Center
14601 Hayes Road
Apple Valley, MN TESTING: Second Thursday
of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI
Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 571-7441
Test Site: Eden Prairie Library
479 Eden Prairie Drive
Eden Prairie, MN
TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)
Contact: Dave Harrell, N0IPN (612) 459-8678
Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station
8641 80th ST., S
Cottage Grove, MN
TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The above information has been furnished by the various VEs. However, it is suggested that you confirm time, date and location BEFORE you make the trip to the test site. Occasionally, a test may be canceled and/or dates and locations changed. A Phone call could save you some grief and a wasted trip.



SSB
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OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2A in great shape. Complete bag of crystals, and nine army manuals for it. With power supply. Asking \$600.00. Guy Albert Boucher, 107 West Third Street. E-mail buyboucher@tznnet.com.

WANTED: Low Voltage & Fil. Xfmr "T2" and manual or schematic for Johnson Viking II. Schematic for Gonset GC-105 Communicator "Gooney-Bird". Ron Martinmaki, (608) 788-2693.

WANTED: Franklin Elementary School of Appleton is in need of HAM Radio Equipment: 1 Rotatable, multiband antenna. 1 heavy duty rotator and cable. 80 meter and 40 meter dipoles. Coaxial Cable. Reasonably priced or donations. Contact: Gail Bowers, Principal, (920) 832-6246.

FOR SALE: Colorful United States Stamps. 100 all different. \$1.00 postpaid. Richard Regent, K9GDF, 5003 South 26th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.



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SHOPPER'S GUIDE

SWAPFESTS



**26th ANNUAL MIDWINTER
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WAUKESHA EXPOSITION
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**SUNDAY
JANUARY 11, 1998**

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Sunday, November 2, 1997
Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukana

HAMFEST INFO:
Chad Pennings, N9PRC
1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 993-0485

EXAM INFO:
Larry Siebers, KD9IA
(414) 789-1167

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MADISON SWAPFEST
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1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
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Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

Lakeshore Hamfest
and Computer Swapfest
Manitowoc County Expo
Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R
Saturday, May 9, 1998
For more information, call:
Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096
Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097
ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SWAPFEST 98
July 11, 1998
(Held every July)
American Legion Park
Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235 Extension 58
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS
HAMFEST 1998
YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!
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E-MAIL: jfw9jn@tznnet.com

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club
Eau Claire County Fairgrounds
Intersection of Highways 93 and I-94
Carol Caraso • (715) 723-9205 Liz Searing • (715) 834-1303
P.O. Box 1867 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
<http://www.ecarc.org>

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Sunday, July 27, 1997
8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
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Commercial Dealers • Forums
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Ozaukee Radio Club
**20TH ANNUAL RADIO AND
COMPUTER SWAPFEST**
Saturday, May 2, 1998
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

Circus City Swapfest
Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Saturday August 8, 1998 • 7 a.m. - noon
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI
Vendors • Concessions
Camping • Free Parking
Tail Gate Area
\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5
Steve Schulze, N9UDO (608) 356-2313/356-4777 <http://www.thelox.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.
AUCTION
February 24, 1998 • 7:00 p.m.
American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI
CONTACT:
Steve Hart, KA9OMC E616 810th Ave. 715-665-2374 Knapp, WI 54749

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